



BLACK
LABEL

BOOK
TWO

RAFAEL
GRAMPÁ
with MATHEUS LOPES

BATMAN

GARGOYLE **OF** GOTHAM

R. Grampa



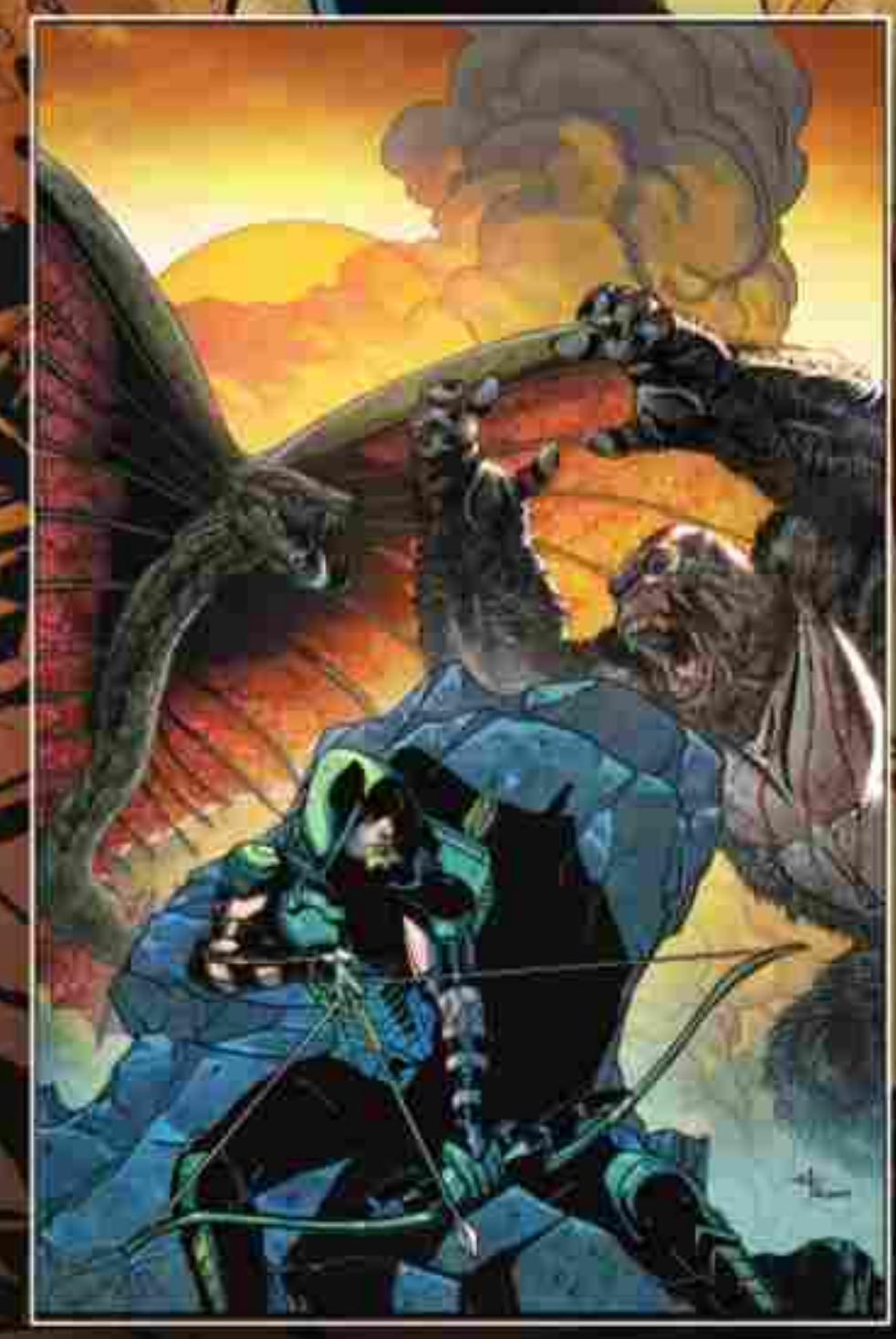
**THE KING OF
SKULL ISLAND
ENTERS THE
BATTLE!**

JUSTICE LEAGUE VS. GODZILLA VS. KONG #3

**Written by
BRIAN
BUCELLATO**
**Art by
CHRISTIAN
DUCE**

**The earth-shattering
crossover event continues.**

December



**Justice League vs.
Godzilla vs. Kong #3**

Main cover by Drew Johnson

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BATMAN



GARGOYLE ^{OF} GOTHAM

BOOK TWO

RAFAEL GRAMPÁ
writer and artist

MATHEUS LOPES
colorist

JOHN WORKMAN
letterer

cover by
RAFAEL GRAMPÁ

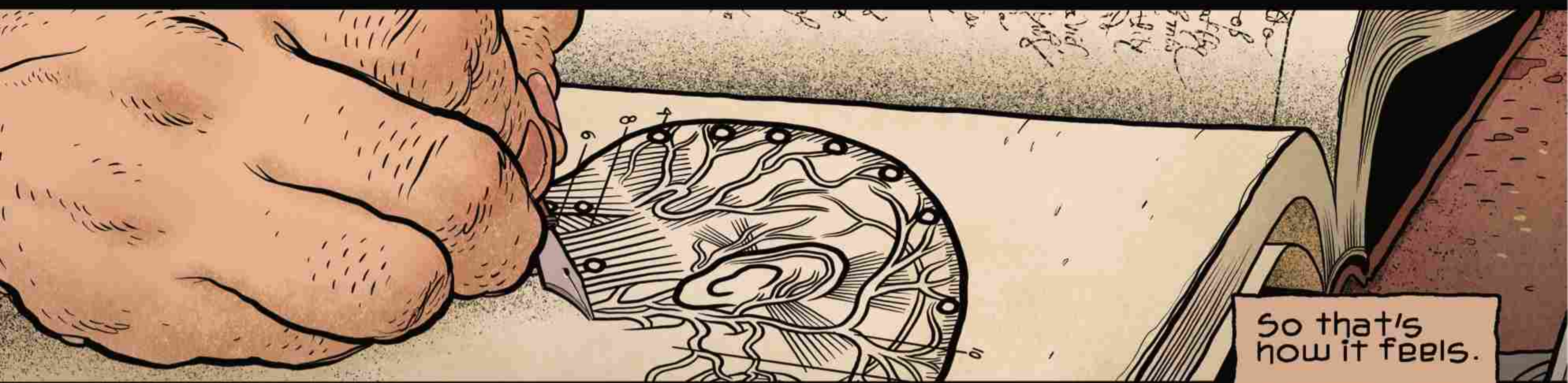
variant covers by
RAFAEL GRAMPÁ with MARCELO PASQUA & RED KNUCKLES
GABRIELE DELL'OTTO
RAFAEL GRASSETTI

1:25 variant cover by
RAFAEL GRASSETTI

1:50 variant cover by
BRUNO SEELIG



BATMAN created by BOB KANE with BILL FINGER



So that's
how it feels.



He is fighting hard,
like never before,
to survive.



But the only heart
left beating won't
be *HIS*.

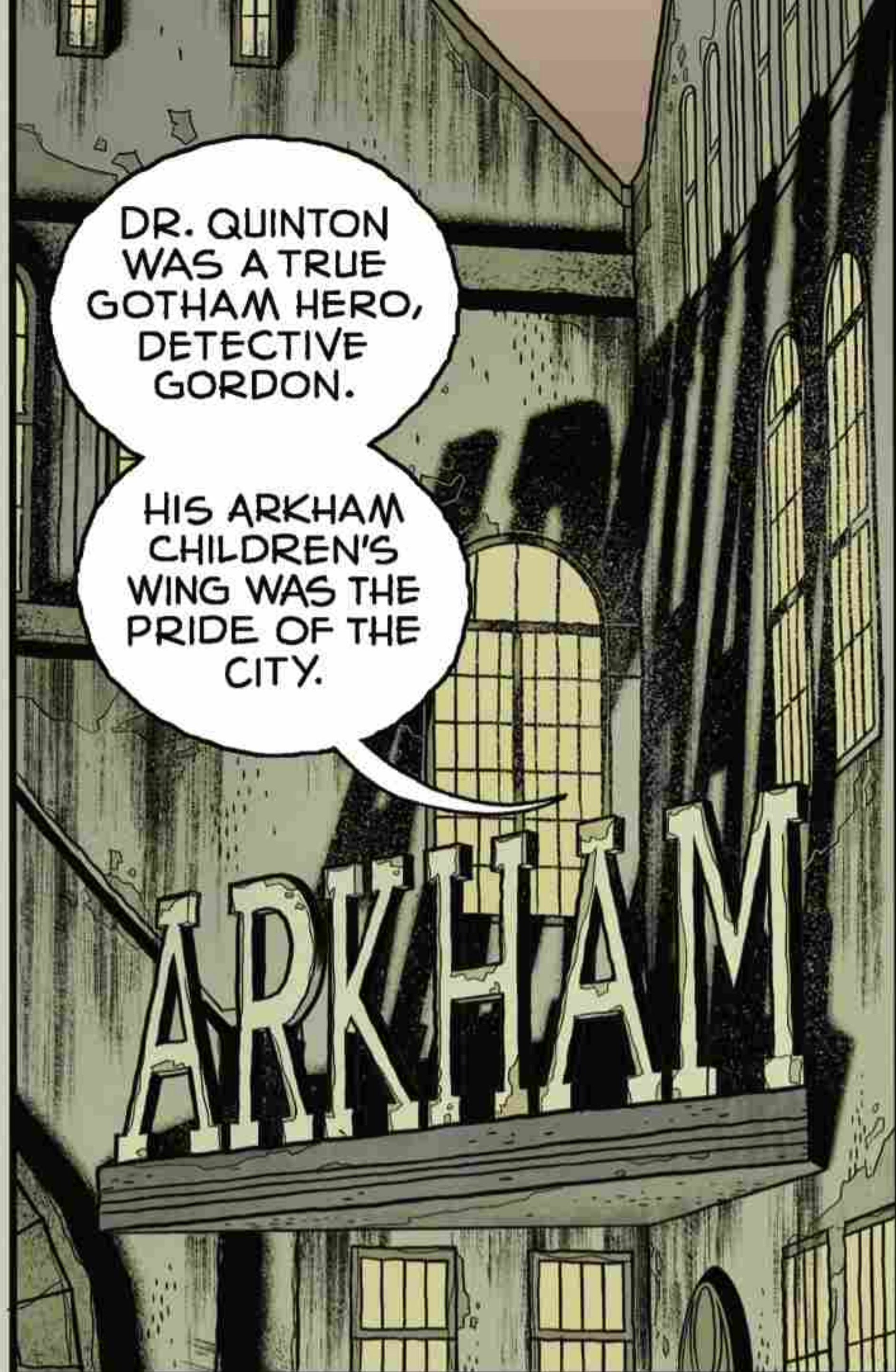


In its place will be
this bitter moan
inside of me.

THAT'S how
it feels.

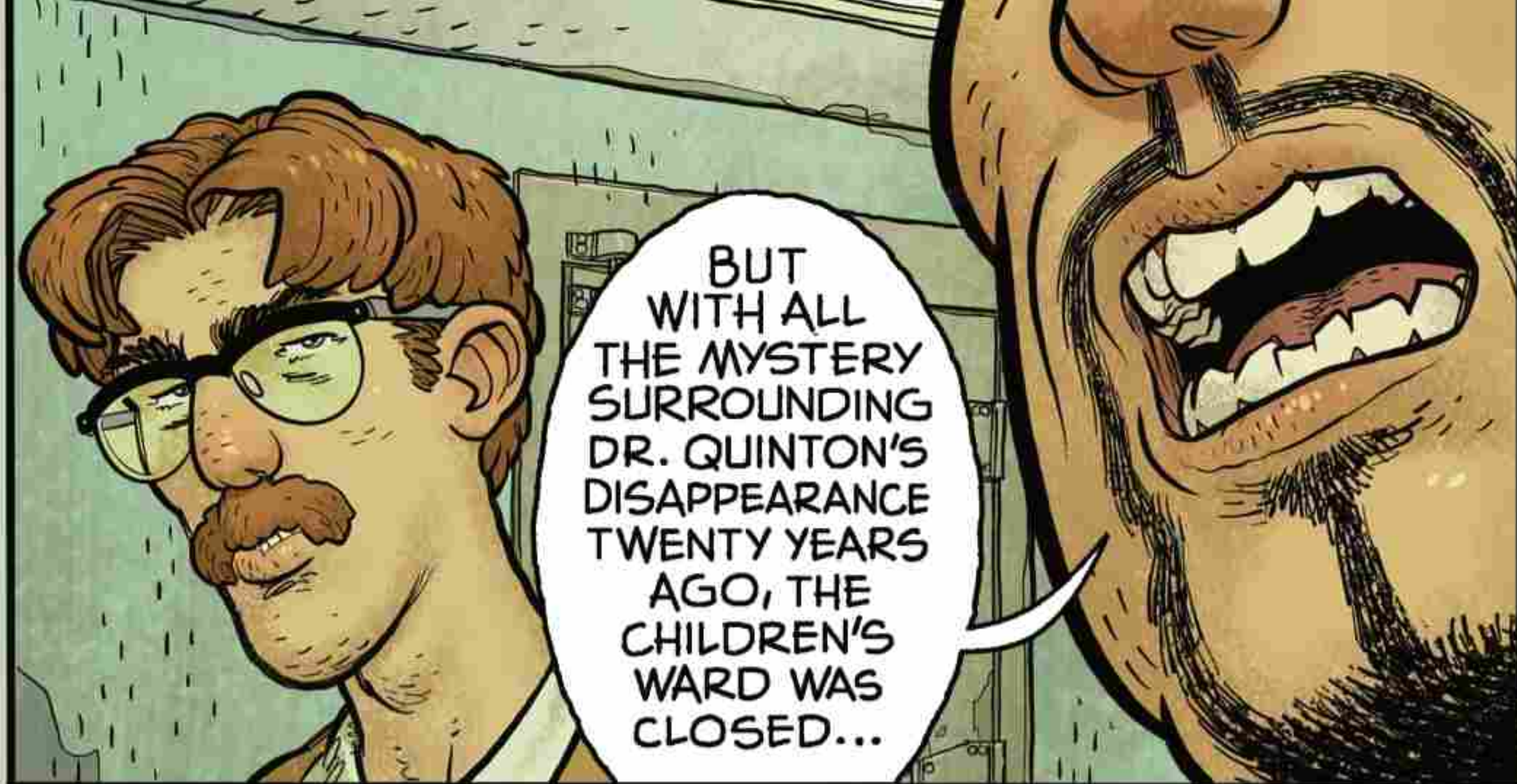


THIS is how
a killer's
heart beats.



DR. QUINTON WAS A TRUE GOTHAM HERO, DETECTIVE GORDON.

HIS ARKHAM CHILDREN'S WING WAS THE PRIDE OF THE CITY.

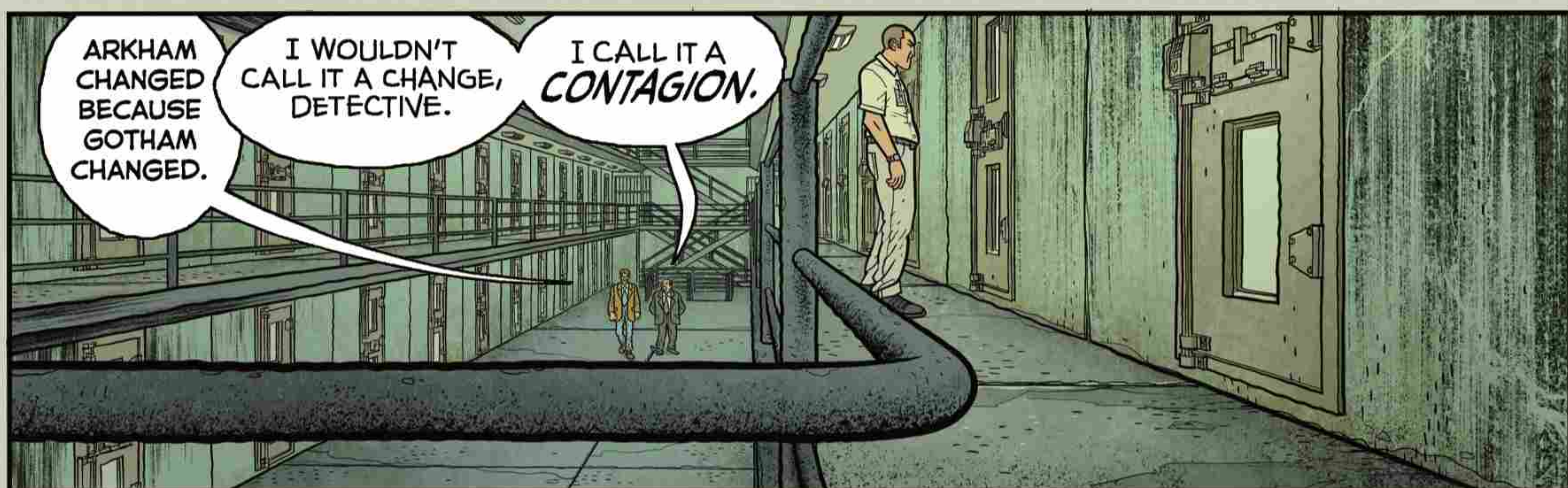


BUT WITH ALL THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING DR. QUINTON'S DISAPPEARANCE TWENTY YEARS AGO, THE CHILDREN'S WARD WAS CLOSED...



...AND WITH IT WENT ARKHAM'S GOOD REPUTATION.

NOW IT'S BECOME A DUNGEON FOR PSYCHO-PATHS.



ARKHAM CHANGED BECAUSE GOTHAM CHANGED.

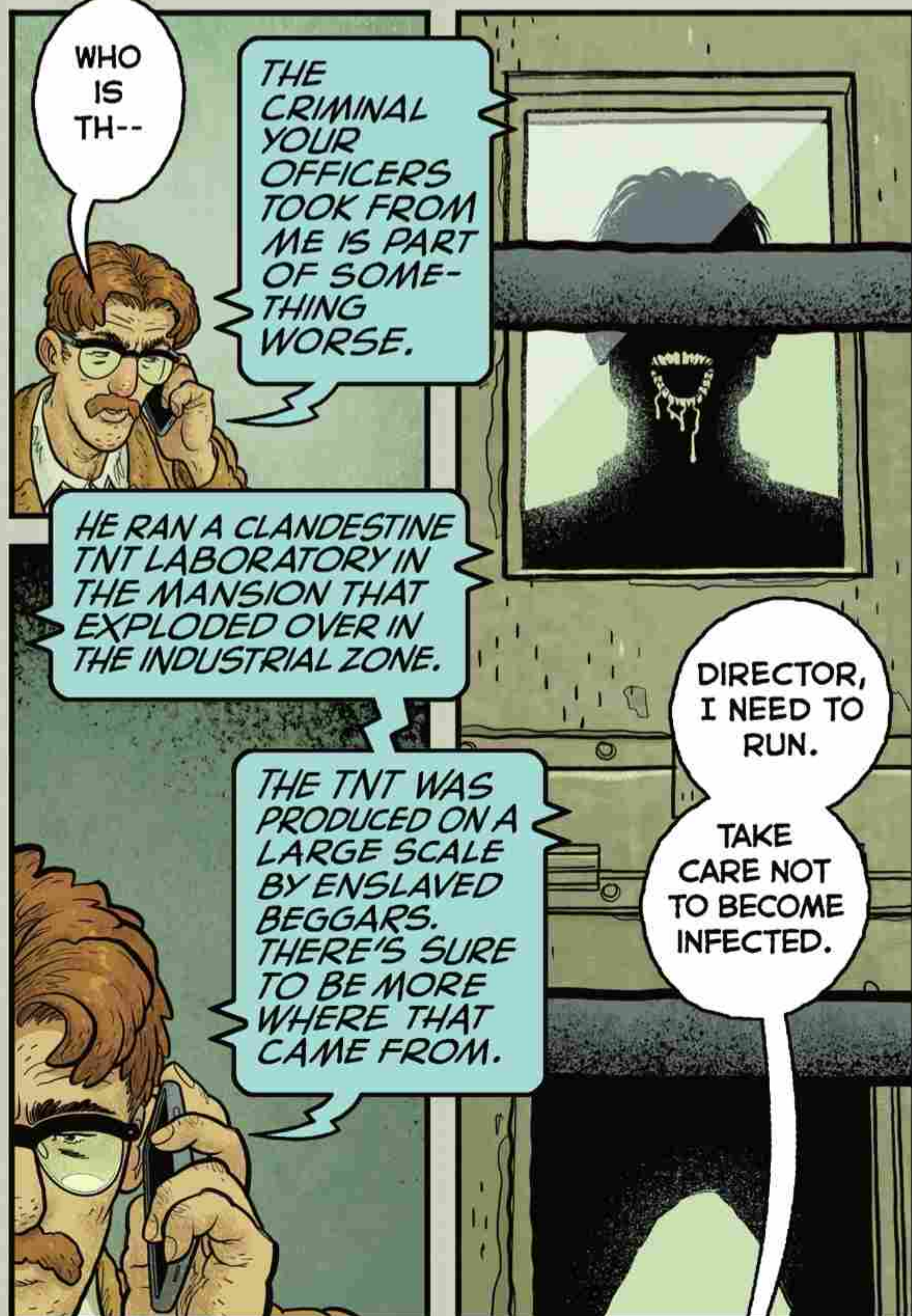
I WOULDN'T CALL IT A CHANGE, DETECTIVE.

I CALL IT A *CONTAGION*.



RIGHT. IF THERE'S NO MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DR. QUINTON, I--

EXCUSE ME, DIRECTOR...



WHO IS TH--

THE CRIMINAL YOUR OFFICERS TOOK FROM ME IS PART OF SOMETHING WORSE.

HE RAN A CLANDESTINE TNT LABORATORY IN THE MANSION THAT EXPLODED OVER IN THE INDUSTRIAL ZONE.

THE TNT WAS PRODUCED ON A LARGE SCALE BY ENSLAVED BEGGARS. THERE'S SURE TO BE MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM.

DIRECTOR, I NEED TO RUN.

TAKE CARE NOT TO BECOME INFECTED.



WE
ARE HERE
TODAY FOR
JUSTICE!

WE
ARE HERE
TODAY TO
DEMAND AN
EXPLANATION
FROM THE
RICH!

WE ARE HERE
TODAY BECAUSE
THIS YOUNG LADY
STANDING NEXT TO
ME WAS *SILENCED*
WHEN SHE SPOKE
THE TRUTH!



I'D LIKE TO
PASS THE MIC TO
NIA, THE HERO
THAT GOTHAM
NEEDS!



THANK YOU
FOR THE KIND
WORDS, RIGEL,
BUT I AIN'T
NO HERO.

THIS IS ALL
GROWING TO
UNIMAGINABLE
PROPORTIONS
REALLY
FAST...



...BUT THIS IS A
SERIOUS MATTER.
AND IF YOU CAME
ALL THIS WAY...

...TO POST PICTURES
HOLDING SIGNS TO
FEEL LIKE HEROES, I
KINDLY ASK YOU TO
GET THE HELL OUT
OF HERE.

THERE
ARE NO HEROES--
ONLY *VICTIMS*--
IN GOTHAM
CITY.



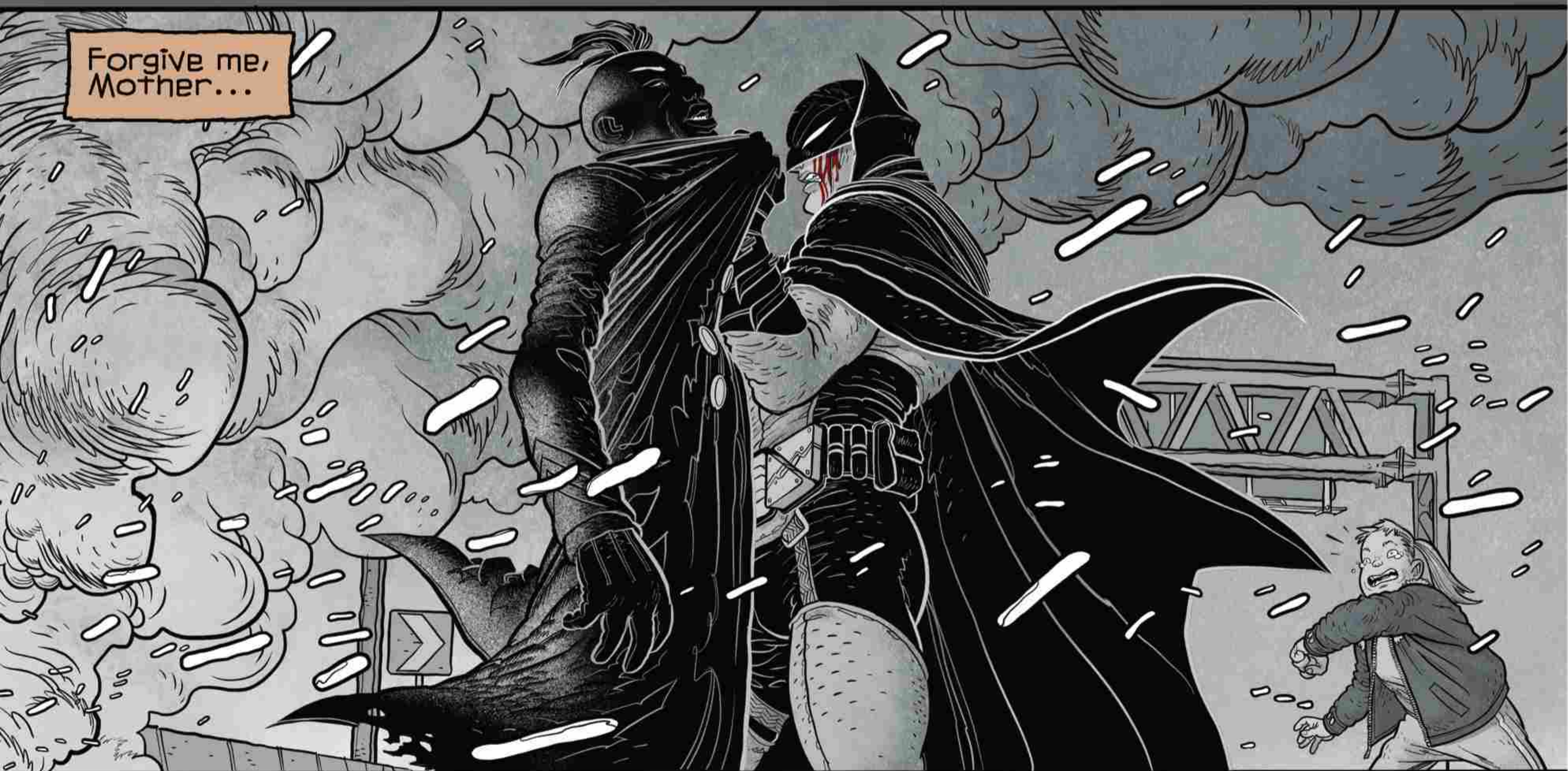
...REPORTING
LIVE FROM THE
FINANCIAL DISTRICT,
WHERE A
DEMONSTRATION
FOR THE RIGHTS OF
THE HOMELESS IS
TAKING PLACE.

BUT WHO *IS*
NIA GARCIA, CREATOR
OF THE "SPEAK UP FOR
THEM" HASHTAG
MOVEMENT?

So that's how
it feels...



Forgive me,
Mother...



I lost
control.



But I won't let
the guilt get in
my way.



I will make the violence
my rite of passage.



By changing
its meaning.



Each
blow...



...becomes a stab at
the child inside me.



Until he
DIES.



No weakness.

Only the inevitable
bitter moan inside
me.



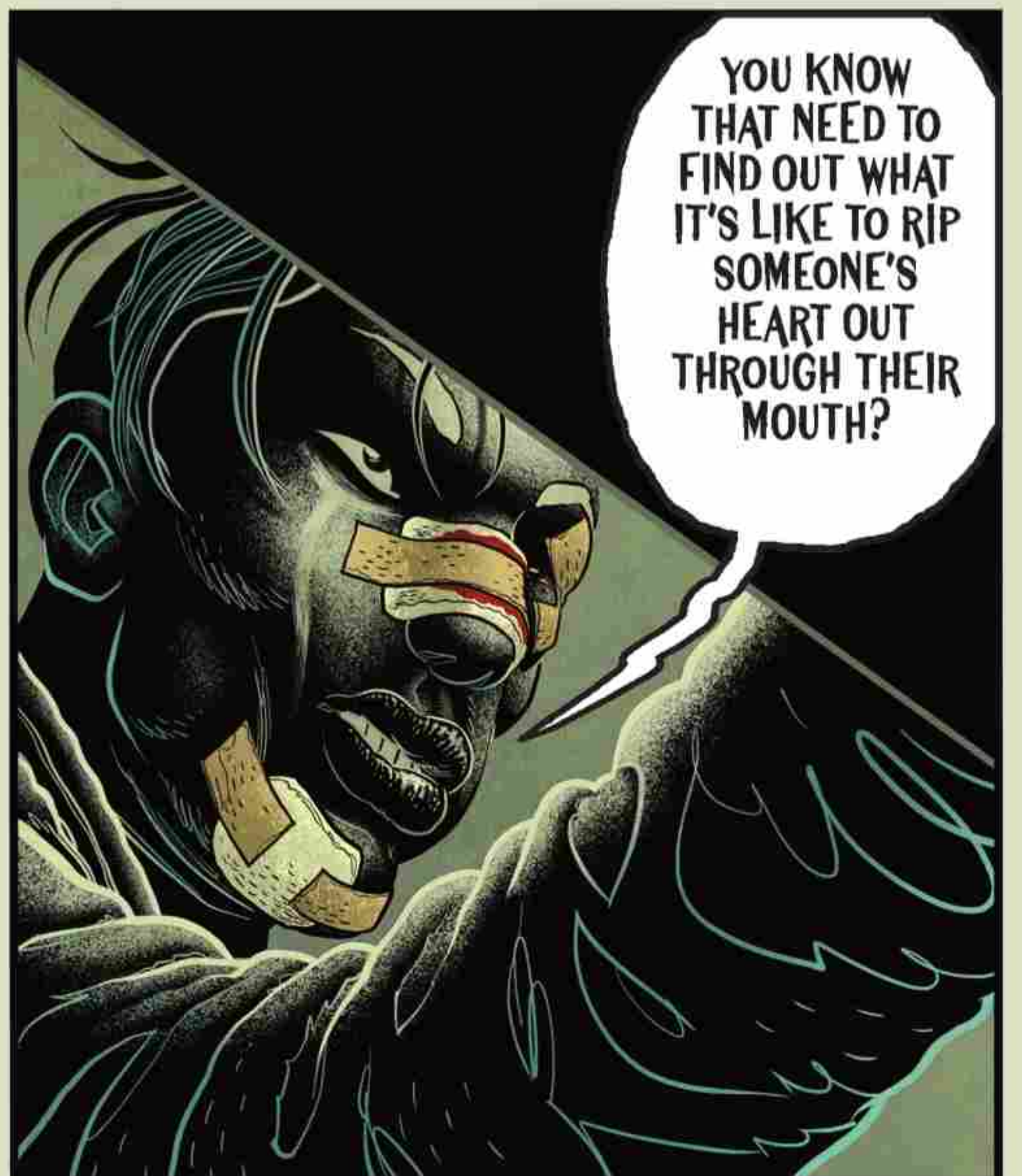
I'll be **COMPLETE**.



But when he's
gone, I'll forget
you, Mother.



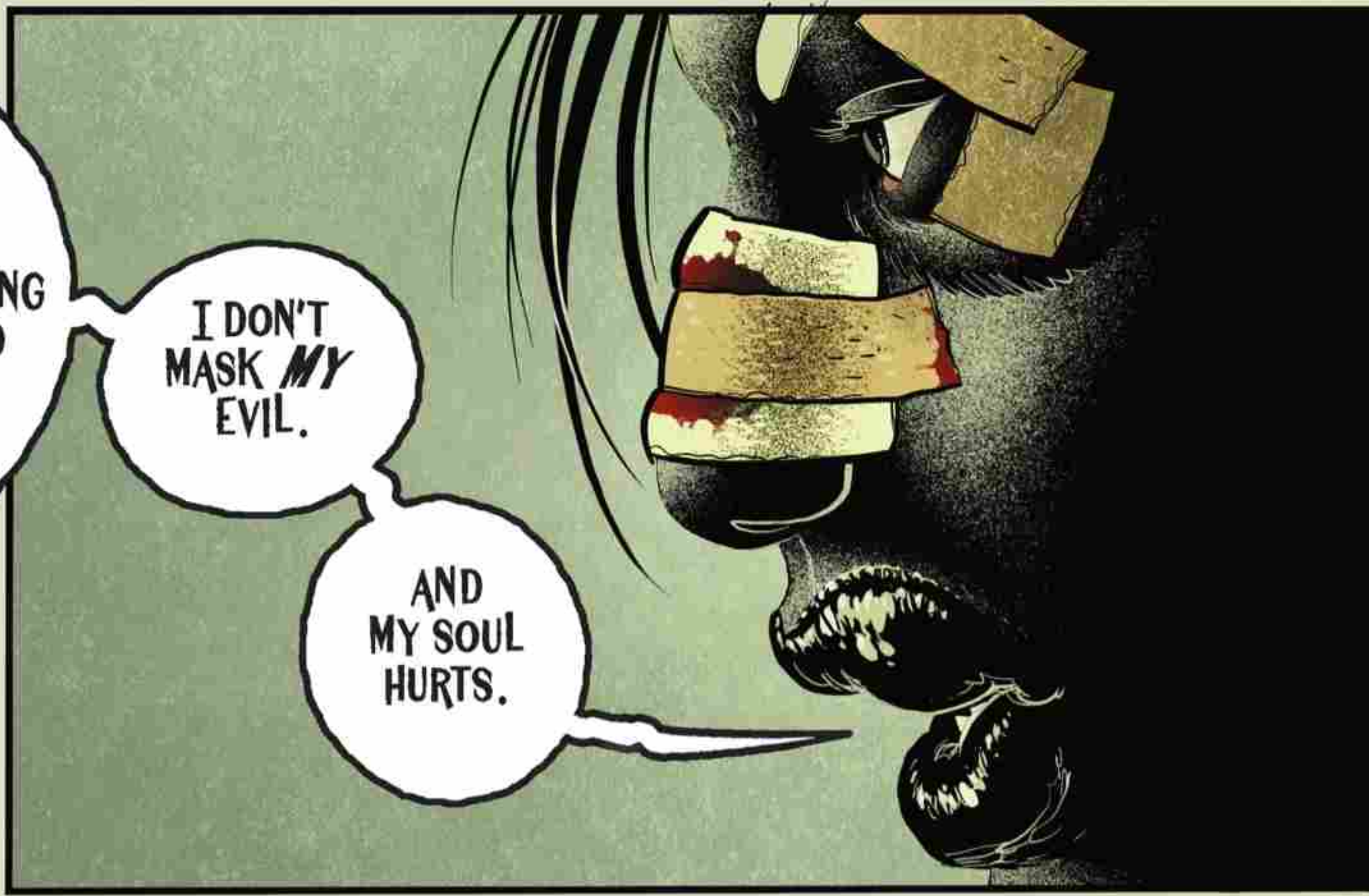
This will be my
most wrenching
sacrifice.







WHY
ISN'T THE
**MASKED
TORTURER** BEING
INTERROGATED
IN MY
PLACE?



I DON'T
MASK *MY*
EVIL.

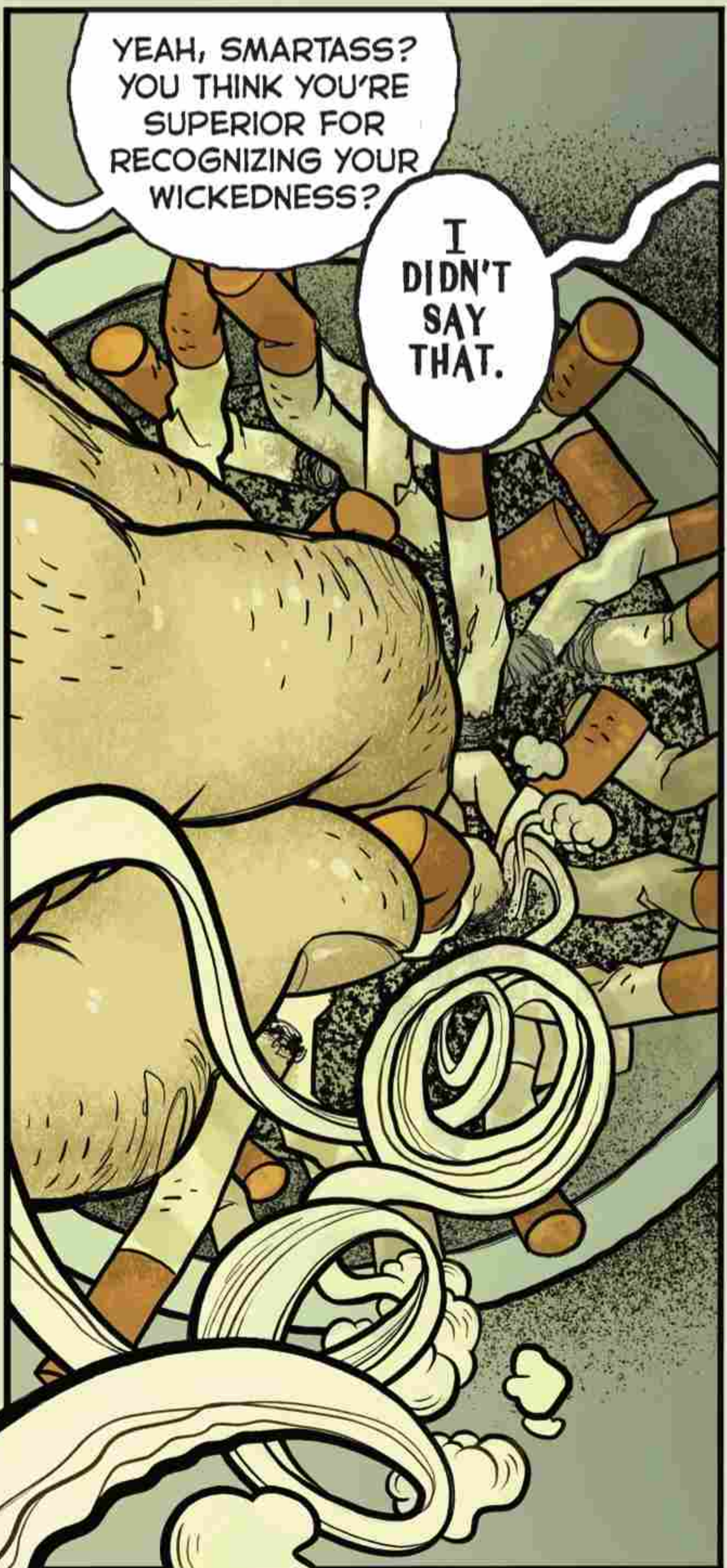
AND
MY SOUL
HURTS.



I'D
ALSO LIKE
TO LOOK IN A
MIRROR AND NOT
SEE MY OWN
REFLECTION.

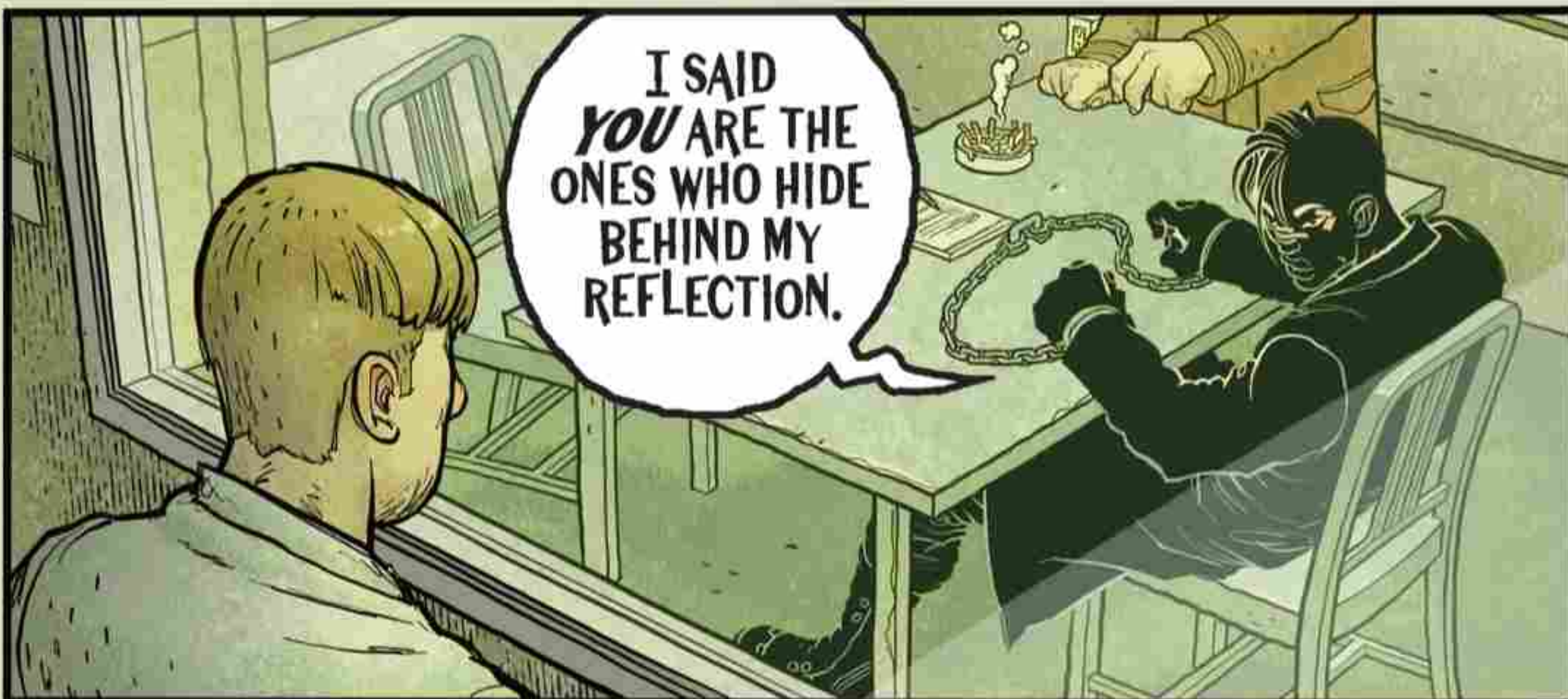
A
GOOD
ONE.

THEN
I COULD
BE ONE OF
YOU.



YEAH, SMARTASS?
YOU THINK YOU'RE
SUPERIOR FOR
RECOGNIZING YOUR
WICKEDNESS?

I
DIDN'T
SAY
THAT.



I SAID
YOU ARE THE
ONES WHO HIDE
BEHIND MY
REFLECTION.



PLEASD
TO MEET YOU,
DETECTIVE...



...I
AM YOUR
SOUL.



AT LAST, MASTER BRUCE. I WAS ABOUT TO CALL A LIFEGUARD.

WHAT'S ON THE MONITORS, ALFRED?



I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON OUTSIDE THE WAYNE ENTERPRISES TOWER, SIR.

CAVE, TURN UP MONITOR EIGHT'S VOLUME.



INCREASING VOLUME.

...AND WHOSE VICTIMS ARE WE IN THIS CITY?



WE ARE VICTIMS OF THE LOOTERS OF EVERYTHING.

OF THE *HEIRS* WHO HAVE NO IDEA THAT THE *RESPONSIBILITY* FOR THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY LIES WITH THOSE WHO *EAT*.

speak up 4 THEM



WE WILL SHOW OUR INDIGNATION BY PUTTING GOTHAM'S ELITE IN THE HOT SEAT!

THE RICH NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE MUST INTERROGATE THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY.

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S TRYING TO START A CONVERSATION WITH YOU, SIR.



THIS IS BULLSHIT.



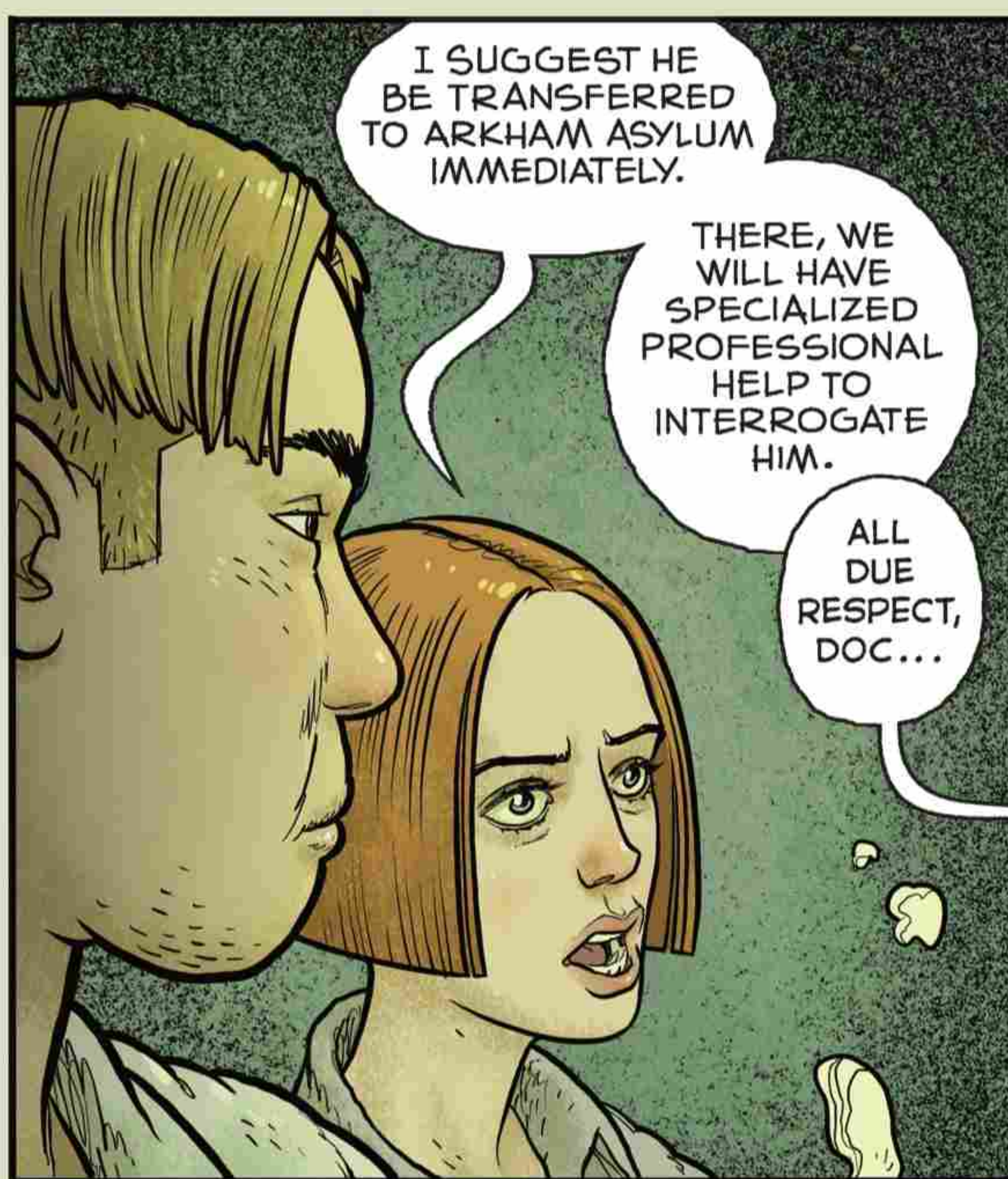
THEY HAVE NO IDEA OF THE REAL THREAT TO THIS CITY.



HE VISIBLY PRESENTS PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVIATIONS, AND DETECTIVE GORDON IS UNLIKELY TO GET ANY CONCRETE INFORMATION FROM HIM.

GIVE ME AN EXTRA HOUR WITH HIM AND WE'LL SEE.

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, DR. IRIS?



I SUGGEST HE BE TRANSFERRED TO ARKHAM ASYLUM IMMEDIATELY.

THERE, WE WILL HAVE SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL HELP TO INTERROGATE HIM.

ALL DUE RESPECT, DOC...



...BUT YOU WANT TO TAKE ANY BASTARD WHO **PICKS THEIR NOSE** TO ARKHAM.



HE'S JUST MAKING FUN OF US.



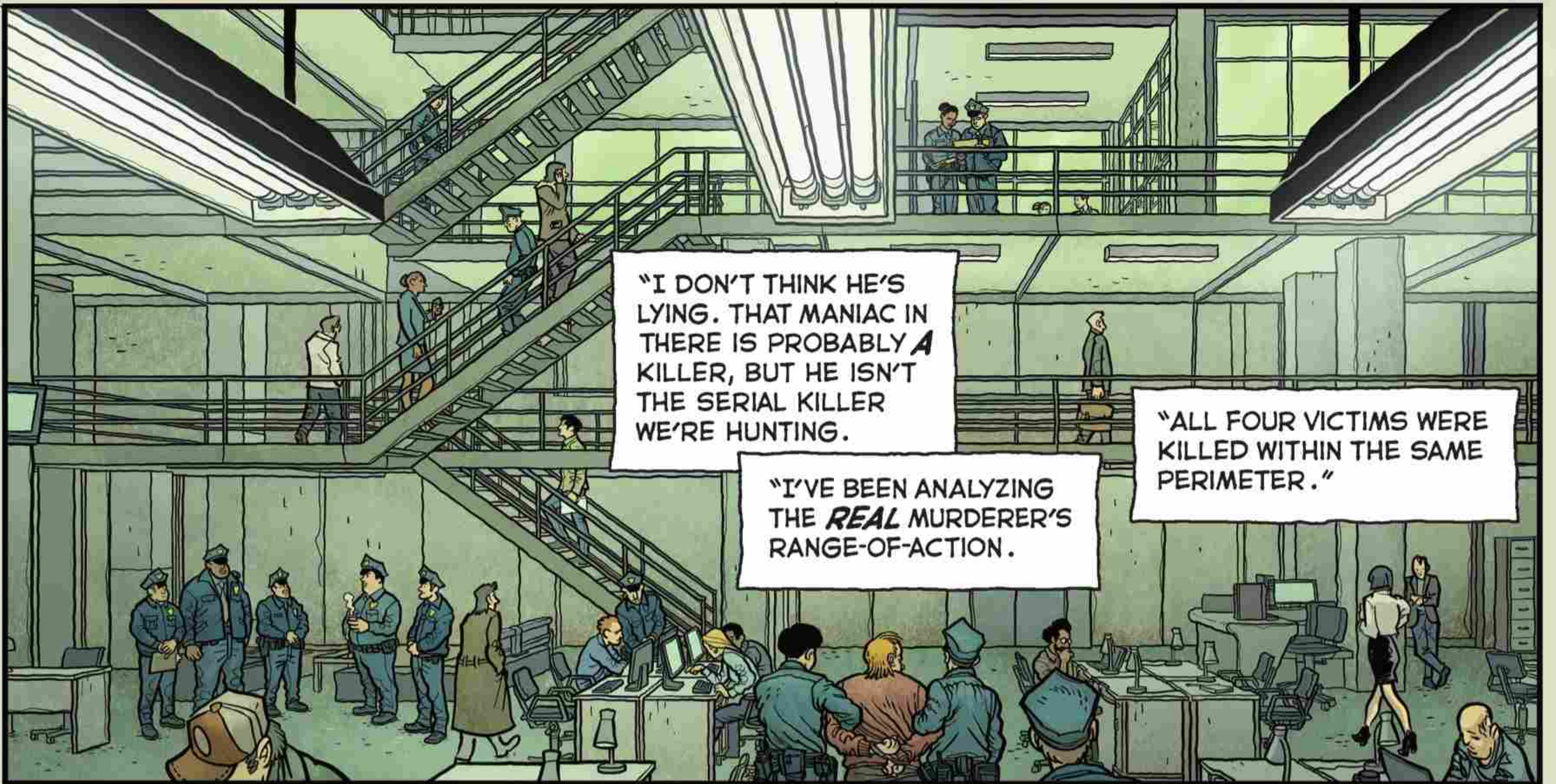
YOU'VE GOT TO BE MORE **RESPECTFUL**, DETECTIVE GORDON.

GO UP TO MY OFFICE. WE NEED TO HAVE A TALK ABOUT YOUR CONDUCT.



OFFICER LUCHO, FOLLOW THE DOCTOR'S ORDERS AND ESCORT THE SUSPECT TO ARKHAM ASYLUM.

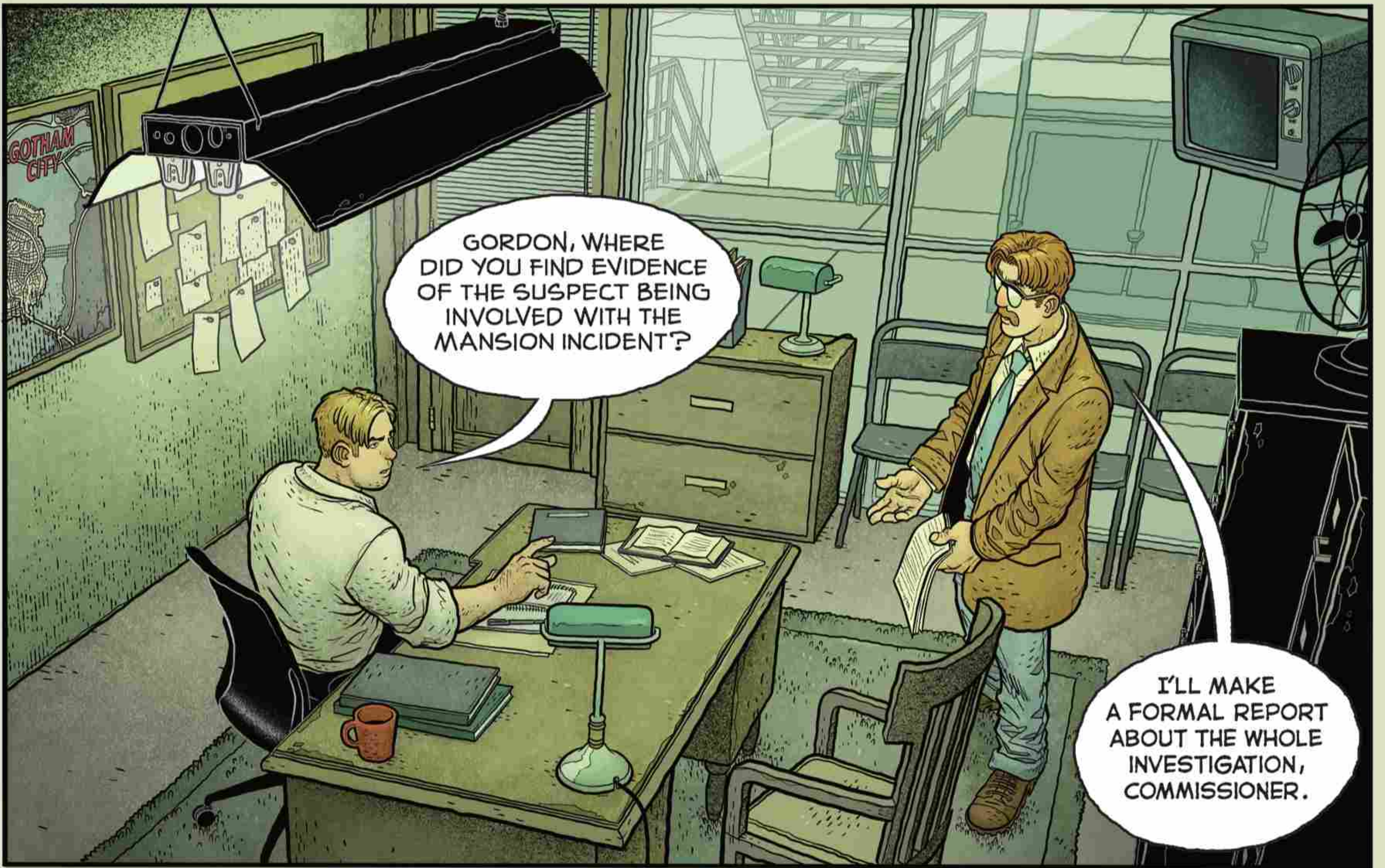
AT YOUR COMMAND, COMMISSIONER.



"I DON'T THINK HE'S LYING. THAT MANIAC IN THERE IS PROBABLY **A** KILLER, BUT HE ISN'T THE SERIAL KILLER WE'RE HUNTING."

"I'VE BEEN ANALYZING THE **REAL** MURDERER'S RANGE-OF-ACTION."

"ALL FOUR VICTIMS WERE KILLED WITHIN THE SAME PERIMETER."



GORDON, WHERE DID YOU FIND EVIDENCE OF THE SUSPECT BEING INVOLVED WITH THE MANSION INCIDENT?

I'LL MAKE A FORMAL REPORT ABOUT THE WHOLE INVESTIGATION, COMMISSIONER.



THE FIRST FOUR VICTIMS OF OUR KILLER ARE ON THE PATIENT LIST OF THE OLD AND NOW-DEFUNCT ARKHAM ASYLUM CHILDREN'S WARD.

THE LIST INCLUDES MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED PATIENT NAMES.

BUT THERE ARE TWO LIKELY **NEXT** VICTIMS FROM THAT LIST. I FOUND THEIR ADDRESSES, AND THEY'RE WITHIN THE KILLER'S ESTABLISHED PERIMETER.



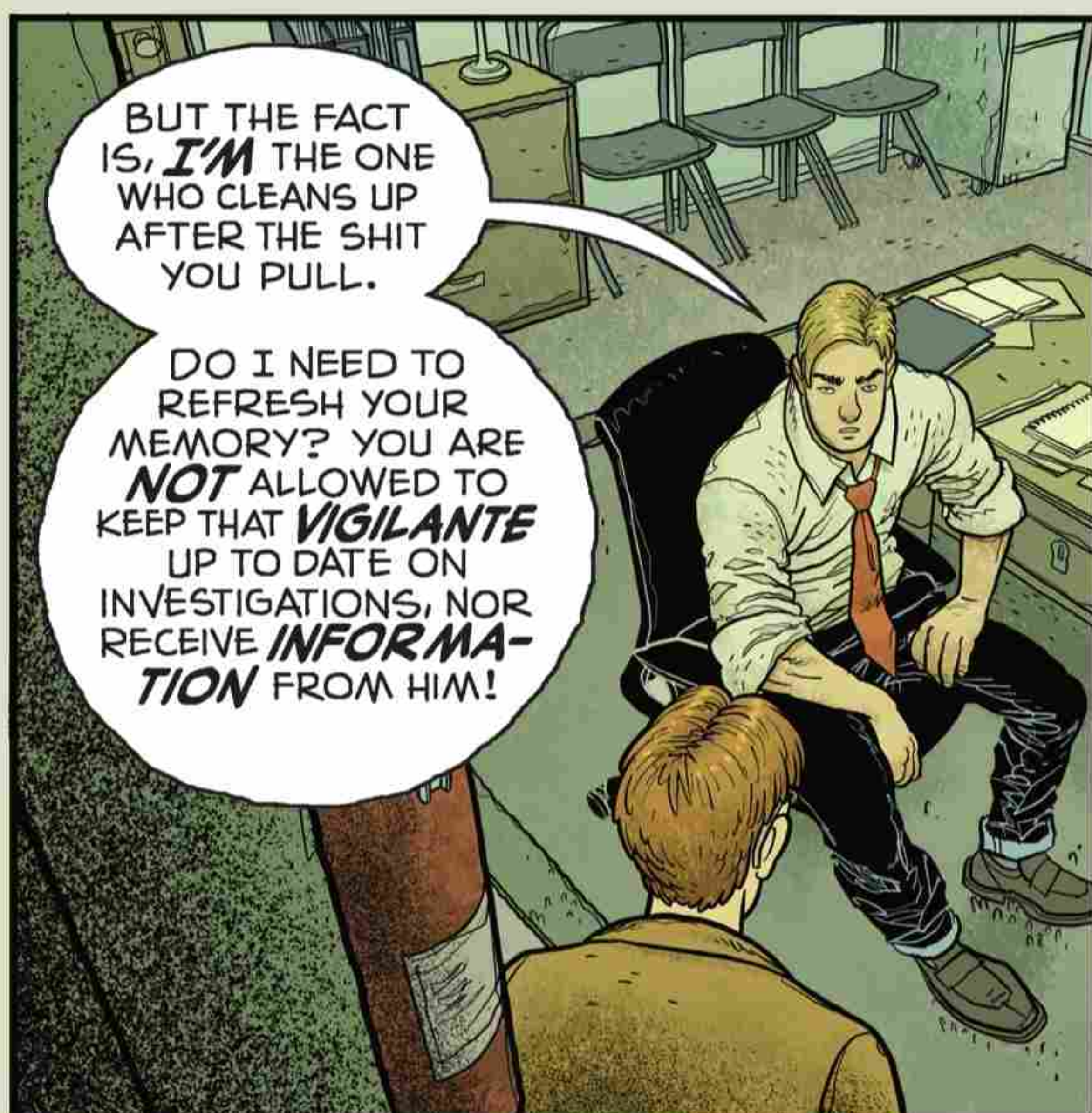
I WANT TO REQUEST A TASK FORCE TO CHECK THEIR PLACES.

I CANNOT STOP THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT BASED ON YOUR ASSUMPTIONS, GORDON. BUT I'LL MAKE WHATEVER STAFF I'M ABLE TO SPARE AVAILABLE TO YOU.



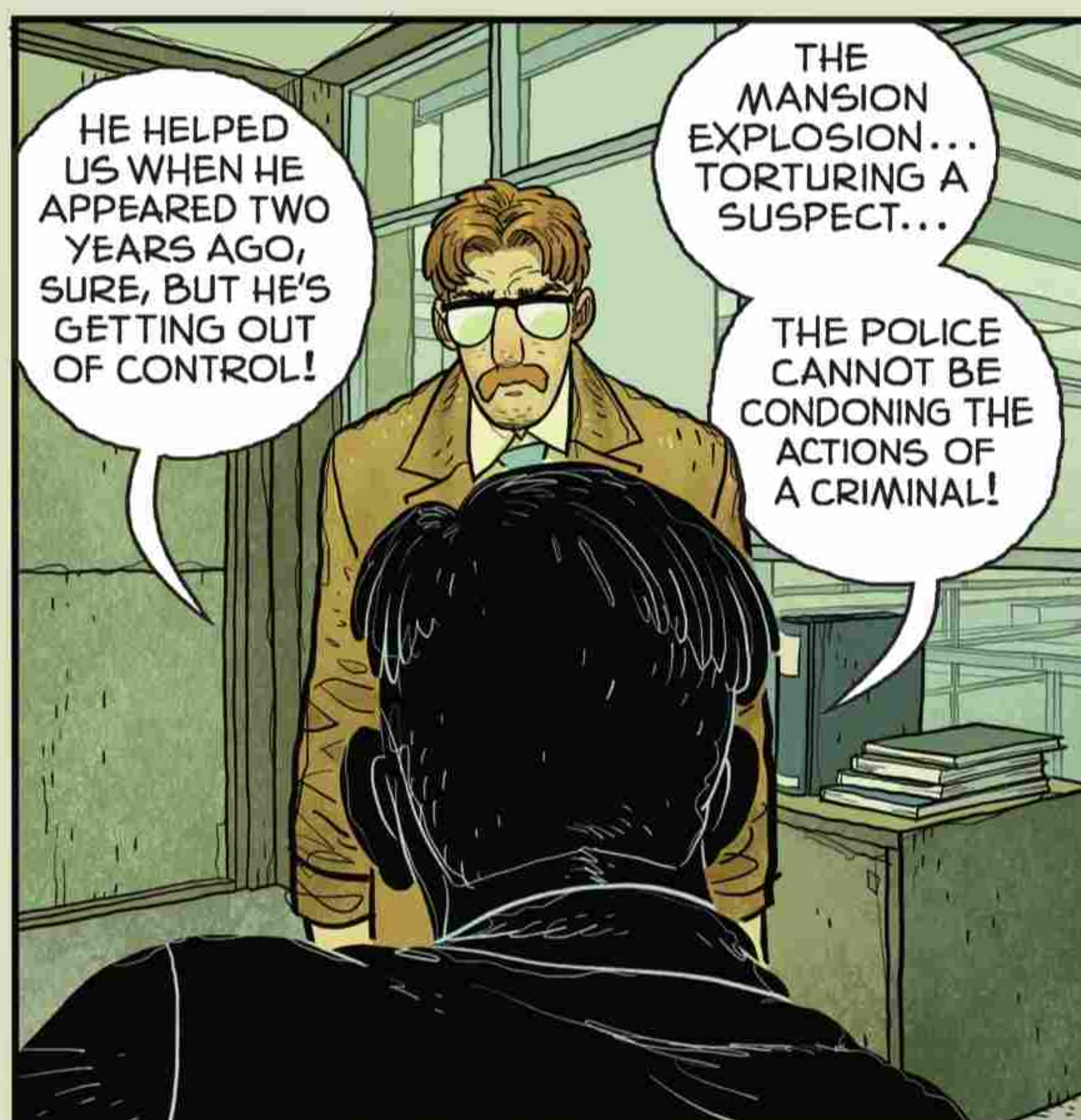
NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT WHERE YOU FOUND EVIDENCE OF A CLANDESTINE EXPLOSIVES LABORATORY.

I KNOW YOU DON'T RESPECT ME BECAUSE OF MY AGE--OR BECAUSE I'M THE **MAYOR'S NEPHEW**.



BUT THE FACT IS, **I'M** THE ONE WHO CLEANS UP AFTER THE SHIT YOU PULL.

DO I NEED TO REFRESH YOUR MEMORY? YOU ARE **NOT** ALLOWED TO KEEP THAT **VIGILANTE** UP TO DATE ON INVESTIGATIONS, NOR RECEIVE **INFORMATION** FROM HIM!



HE HELPED US WHEN HE APPEARED TWO YEARS AGO, SURE, BUT HE'S GETTING OUT OF CONTROL!

THE MANSION EXPLOSION... TORTURING A SUSPECT...

THE POLICE CANNOT BE CONDONING THE ACTIONS OF A CRIMINAL!



MY OWN MEN ARE ACCUSING ME OF TURNING A **BLIND EYE** TO BATMAN! SAYING THAT IF **THEY** COULD PLAY BY THEIR OWN RULES, TOO, BATMAN WOULDN'T MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE!



IF YOU BOTH CROSS THAT LINE AGAIN, I **WILL** GO AFTER HIM. AND I'LL MAKE SURE **YOU'RE** INDICTED AS HIS ACCOMPLICE.



JESUS SAID:
"LET THE LITTLE
CHILDREN COME TO
ME, AND DO NOT
HINDER THEM, FOR
THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN BELONGS TO
SUCH AS THESE."

JUST THEN
A MAN CAME UP TO
JESUS AND ASKED,
"TEACHER, WHAT
GOOD THING MUST I
DO TO GET ETERNAL
LIFE?"



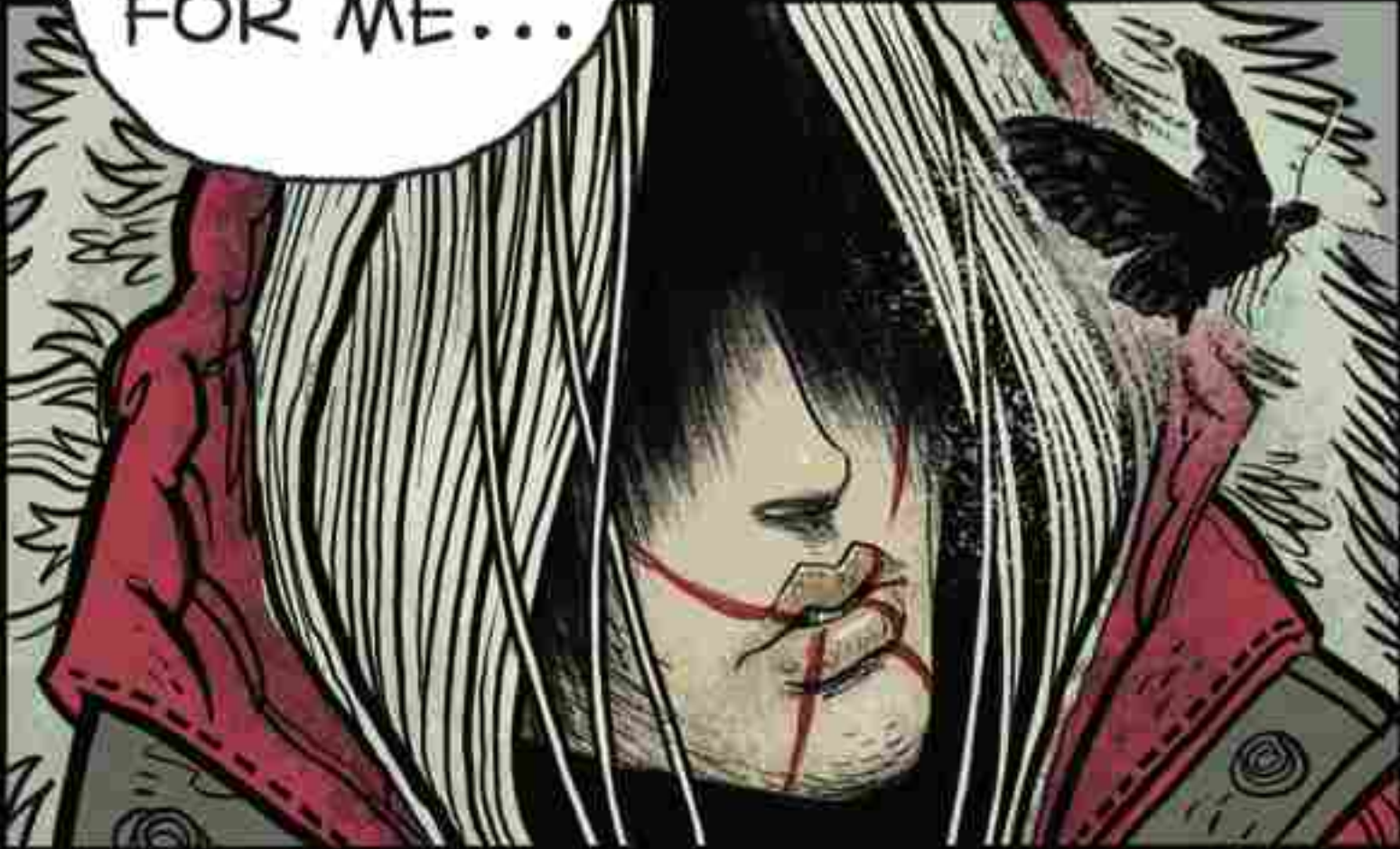
"WHY DO YOU ASK
ME ABOUT WHAT
IS GOOD?" JESUS
REPLIED.



"THERE IS
ONLY ONE
WHO IS
GOOD..."



DUSTIN...
PLEASE
CONTINUE
THE MASS
FOR ME...





THE FATHER
WOULD LIKE
EVERYONE TO
RISE FOR
THE FINAL
PRAYER.

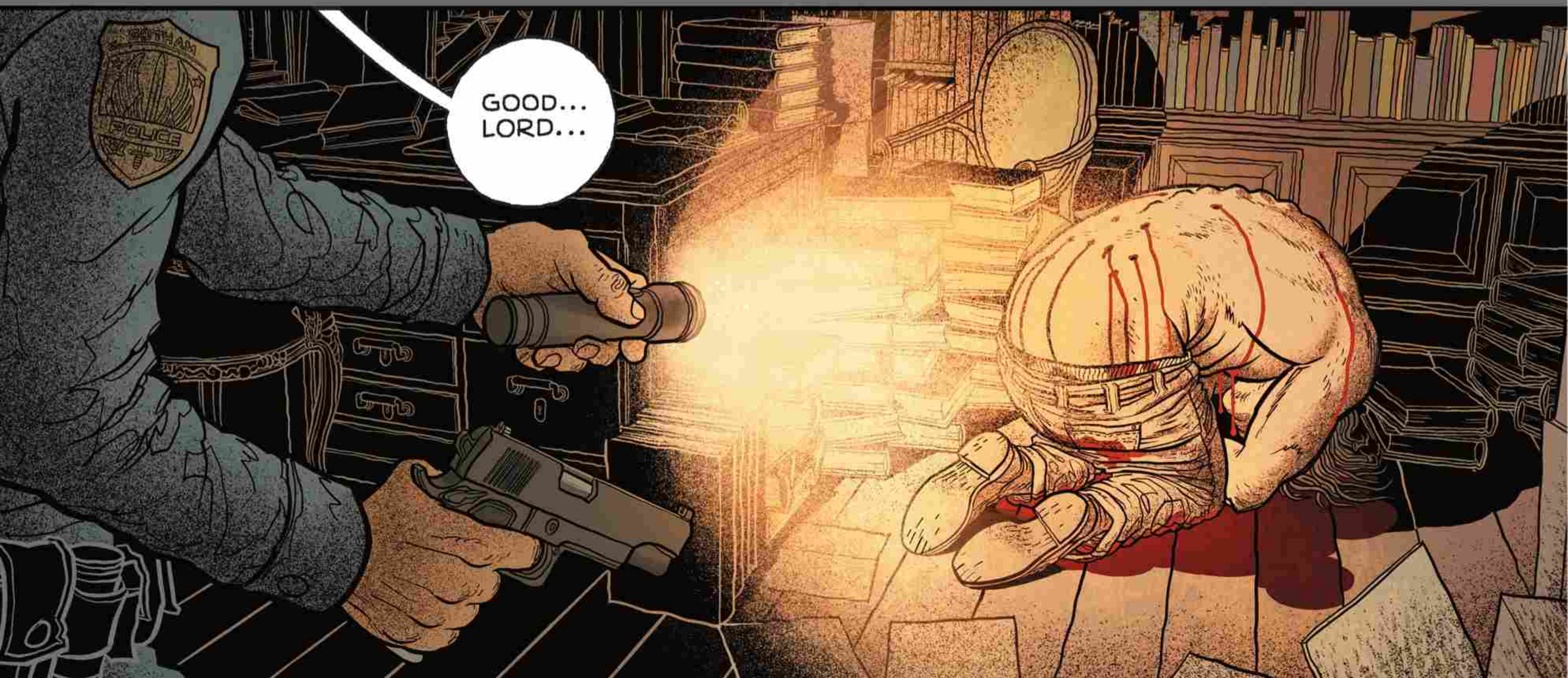
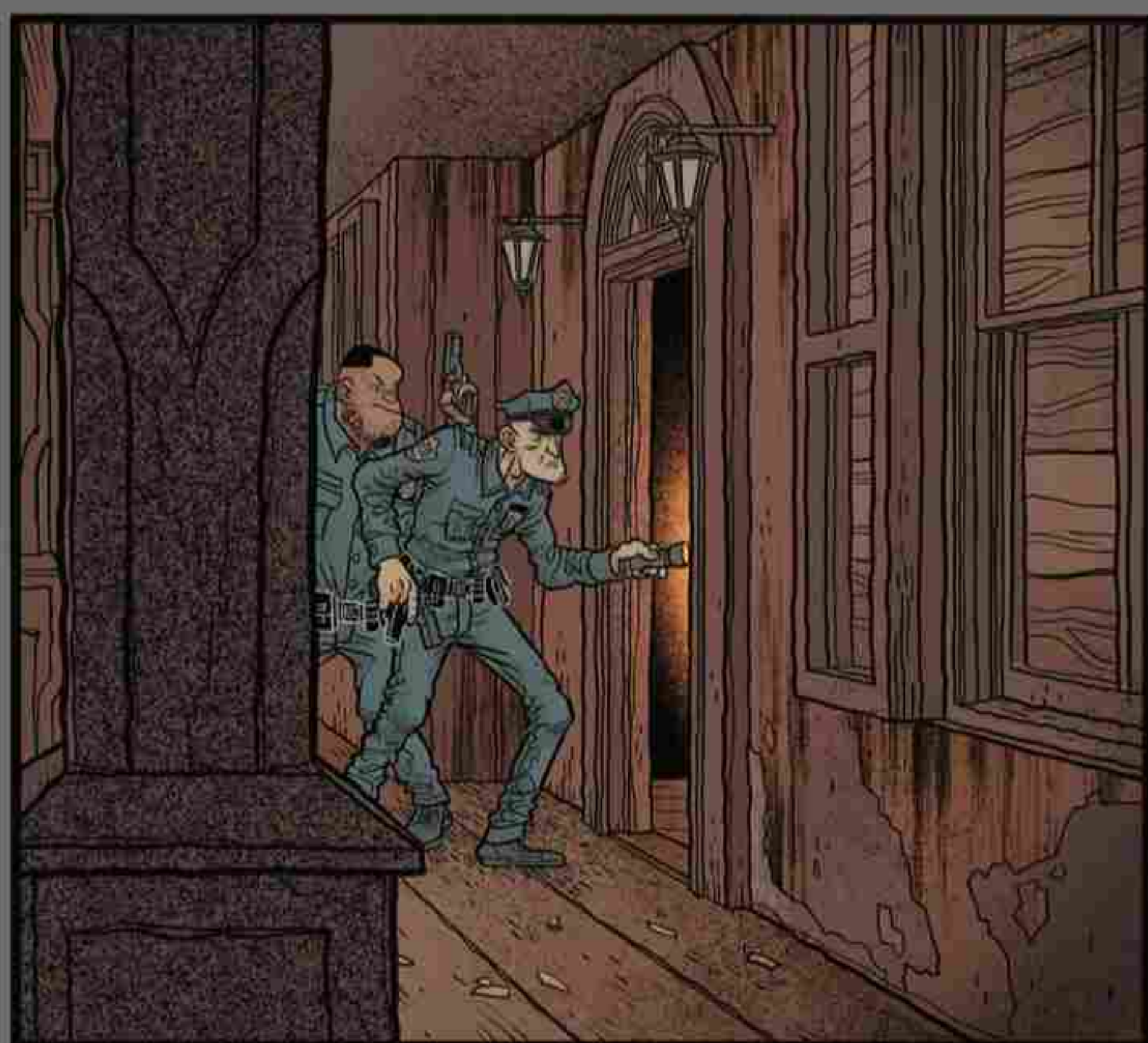


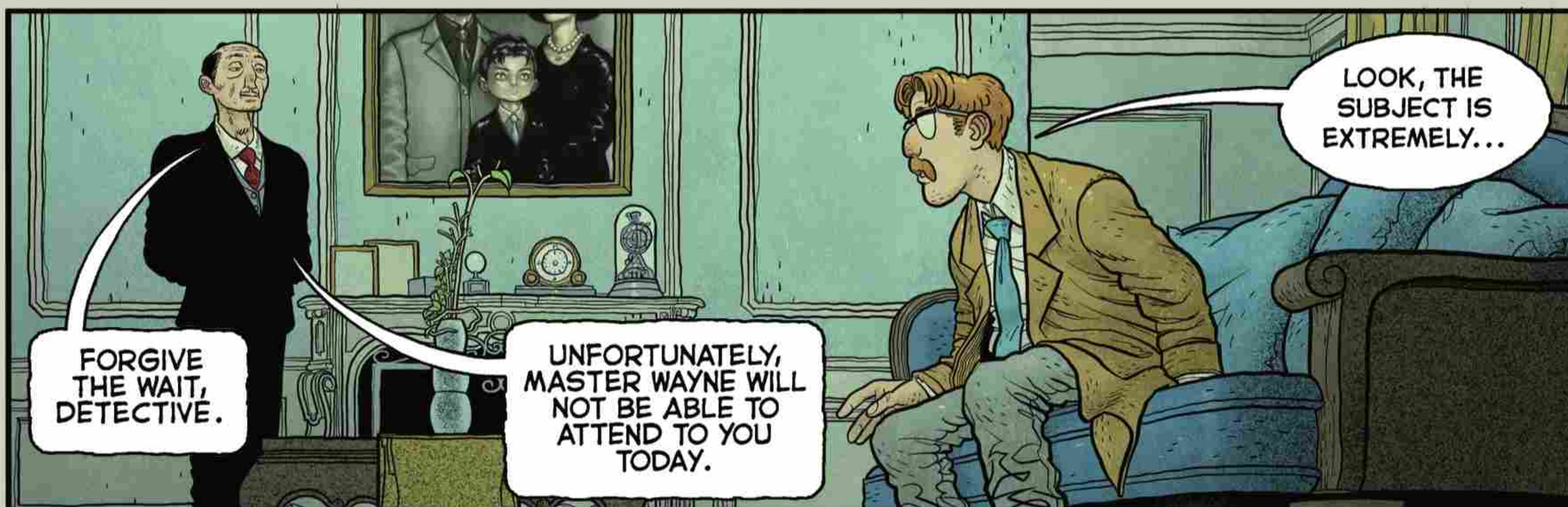
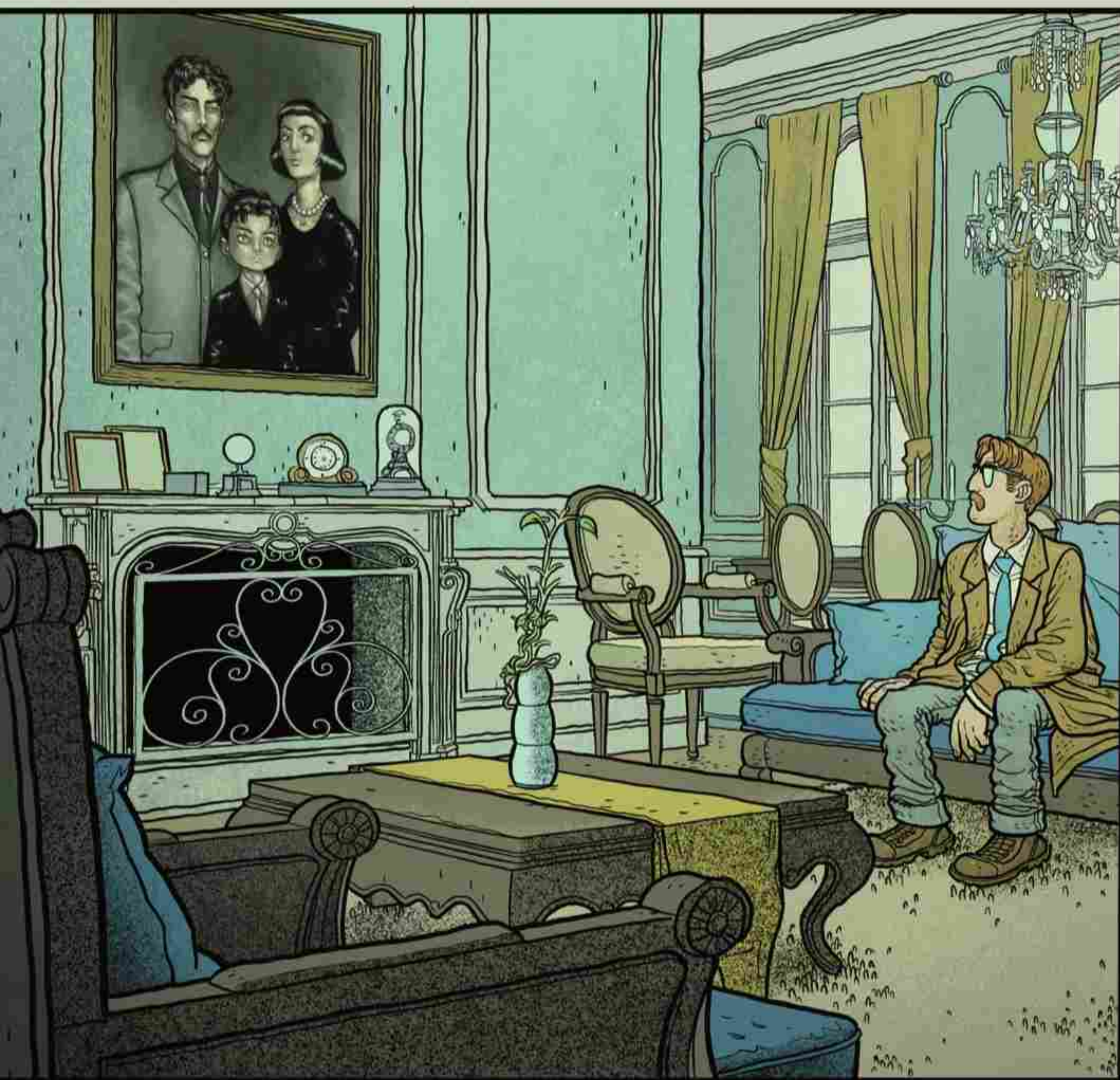
"HAIL
MARY,
FULL OF
GRACE..."

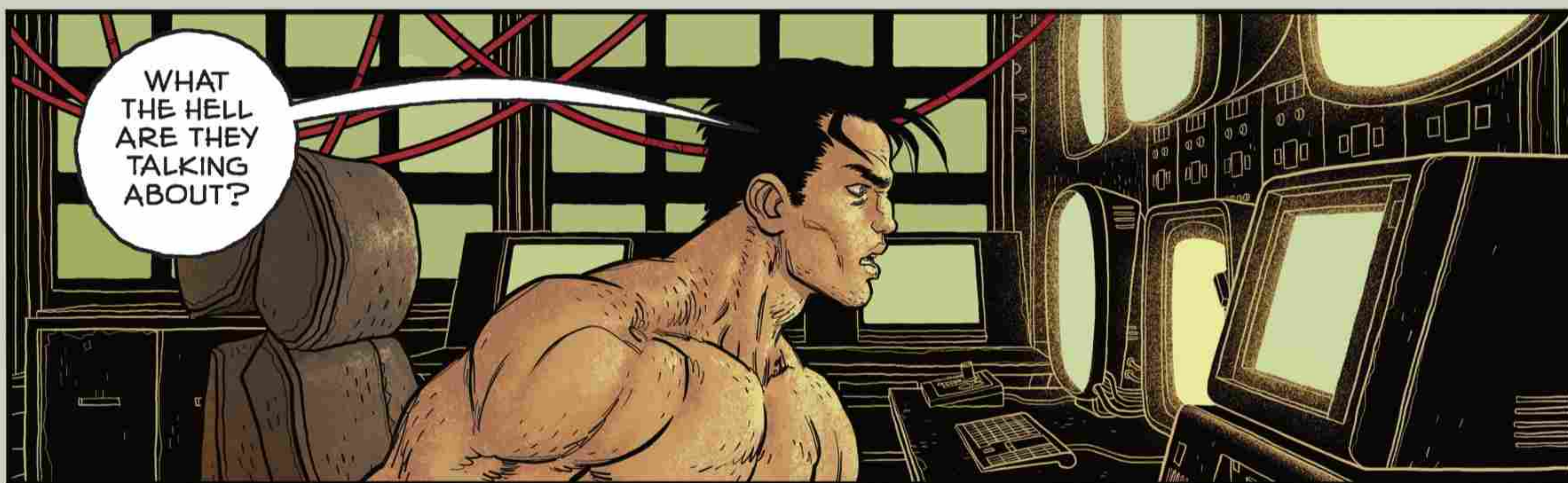
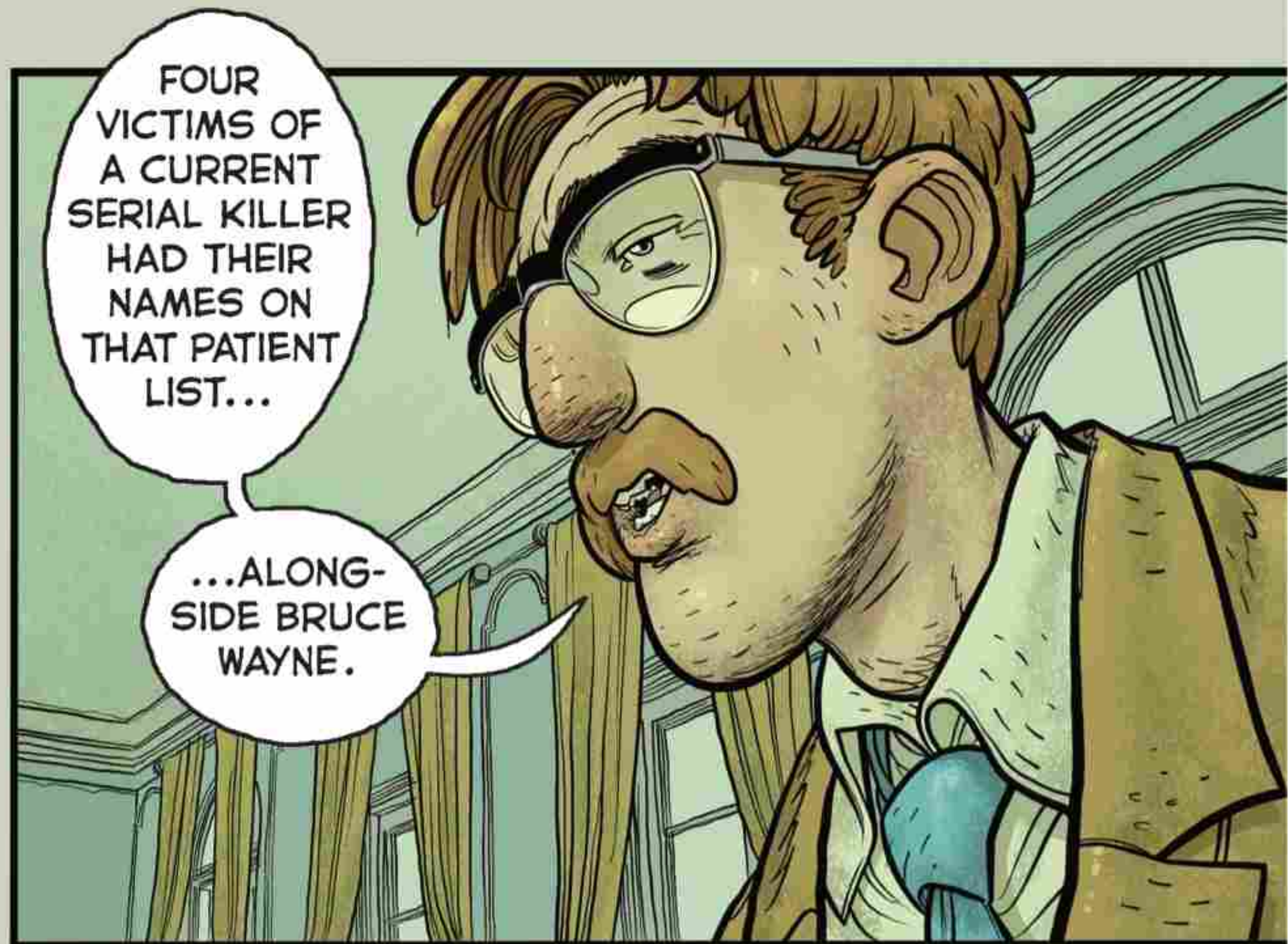
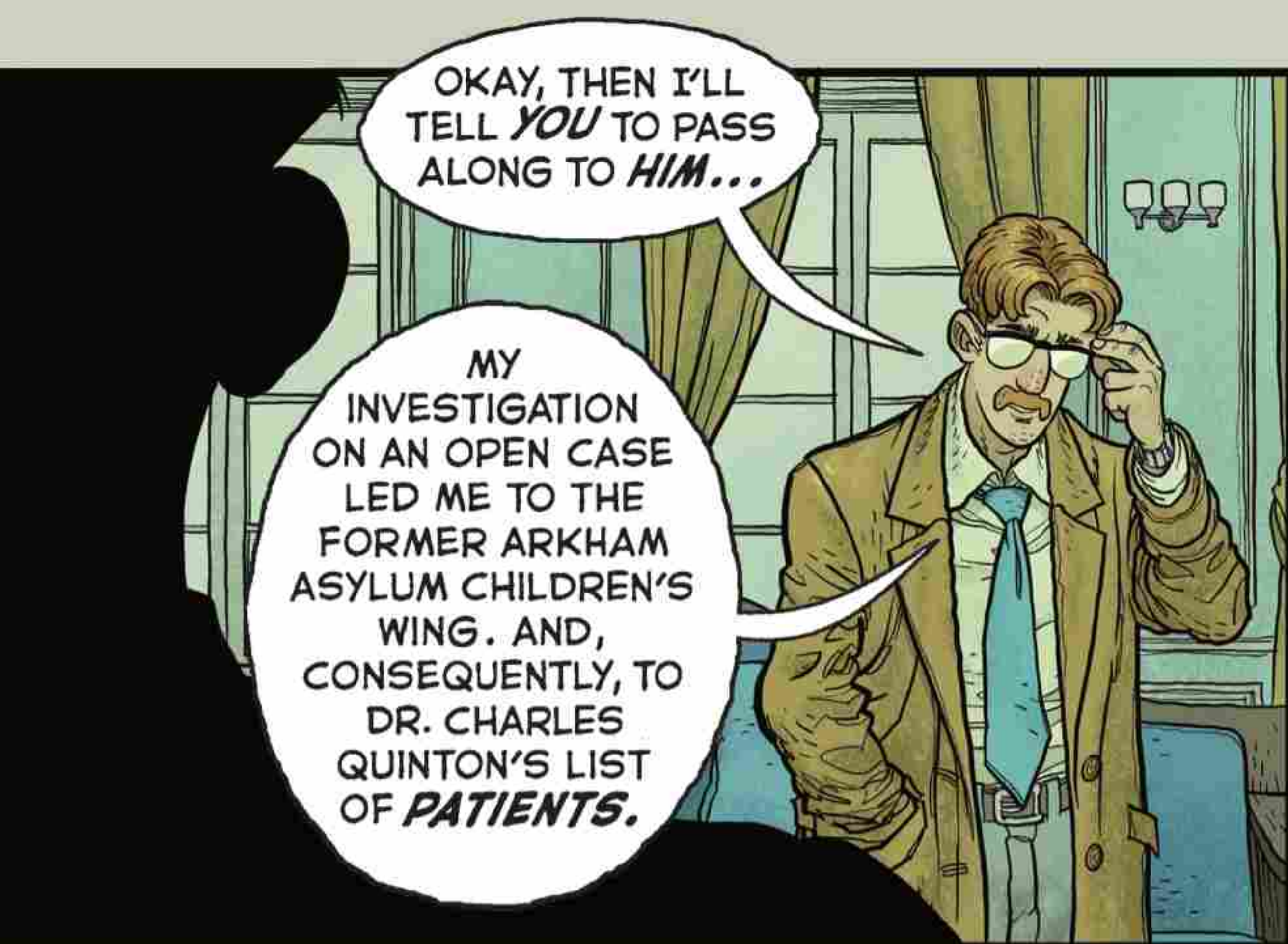
THAAK



"DISPATCH, THIS IS
OFFICER DIAS. I'M
PARKED OUTSIDE
THE POSSIBLE
VICTIM'S RESIDENCE
AT 442 VILICIC
STREET..."









BECAUSE I WAS STUCK IN THE **SHIT** THAT NIGHT...

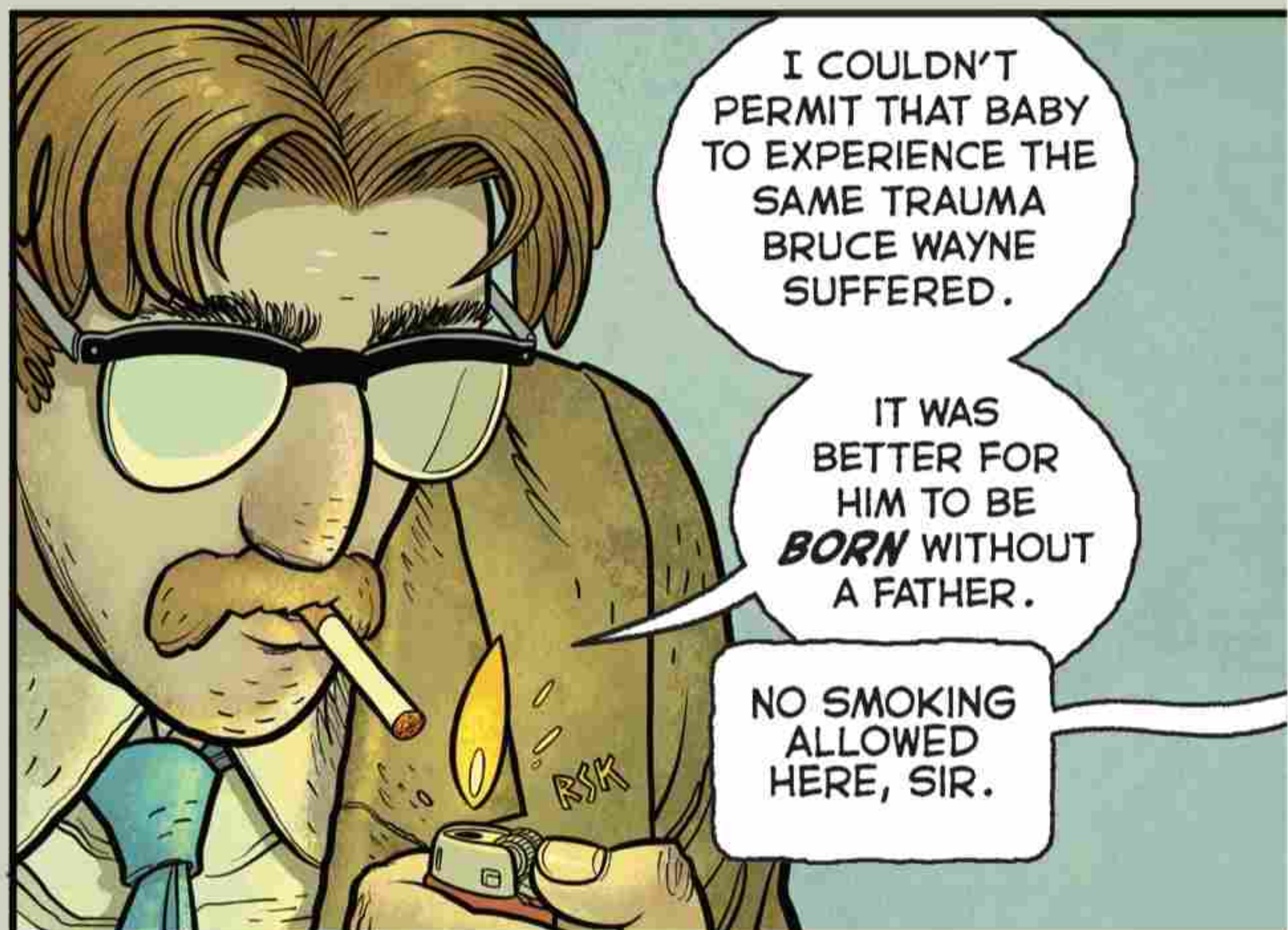
...THE LOVE OF MY LIFE WALKED AWAY WITH THE BABY WE WERE EXPECTING.

DETECTIVE...I FEEL OBLIGED TO SAY THAT WE WON'T NEED YOUR PROTECTION, NOR YOUR CONFESSIONS.

FORGIVE ME. WE ALL HAVE SINS THAT WE'RE TOO ASHAMED TO CONFESS TO A PRIEST...



YOU KNOW WHAT THIS CITY MAKES US, DON'T YOU?



I COULDN'T PERMIT THAT BABY TO EXPERIENCE THE SAME TRAUMA BRUCE WAYNE SUFFERED.

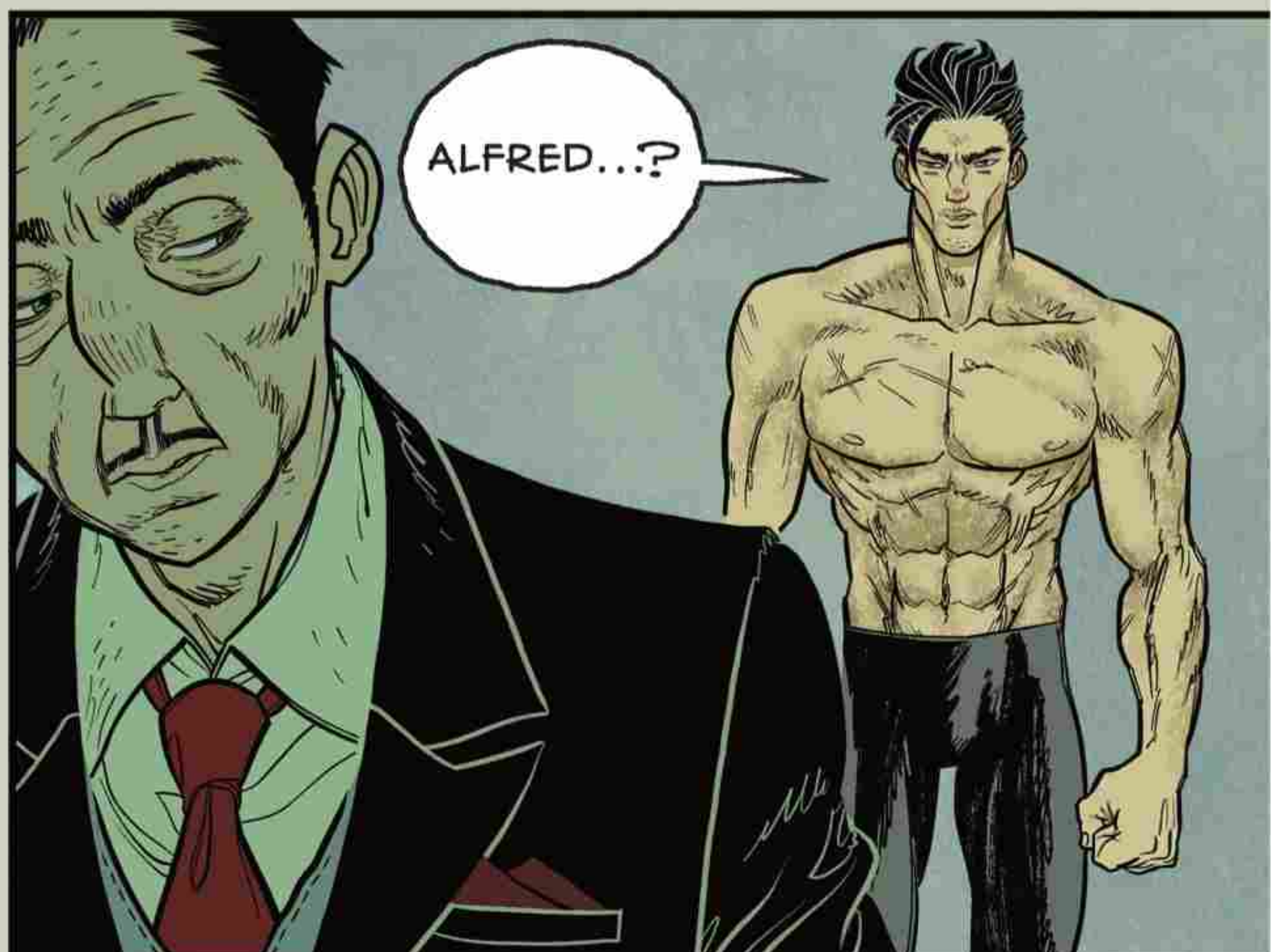
IT WAS BETTER FOR HIM TO BE **BORN** WITHOUT A FATHER.

NO SMOKING ALLOWED HERE, SIR.

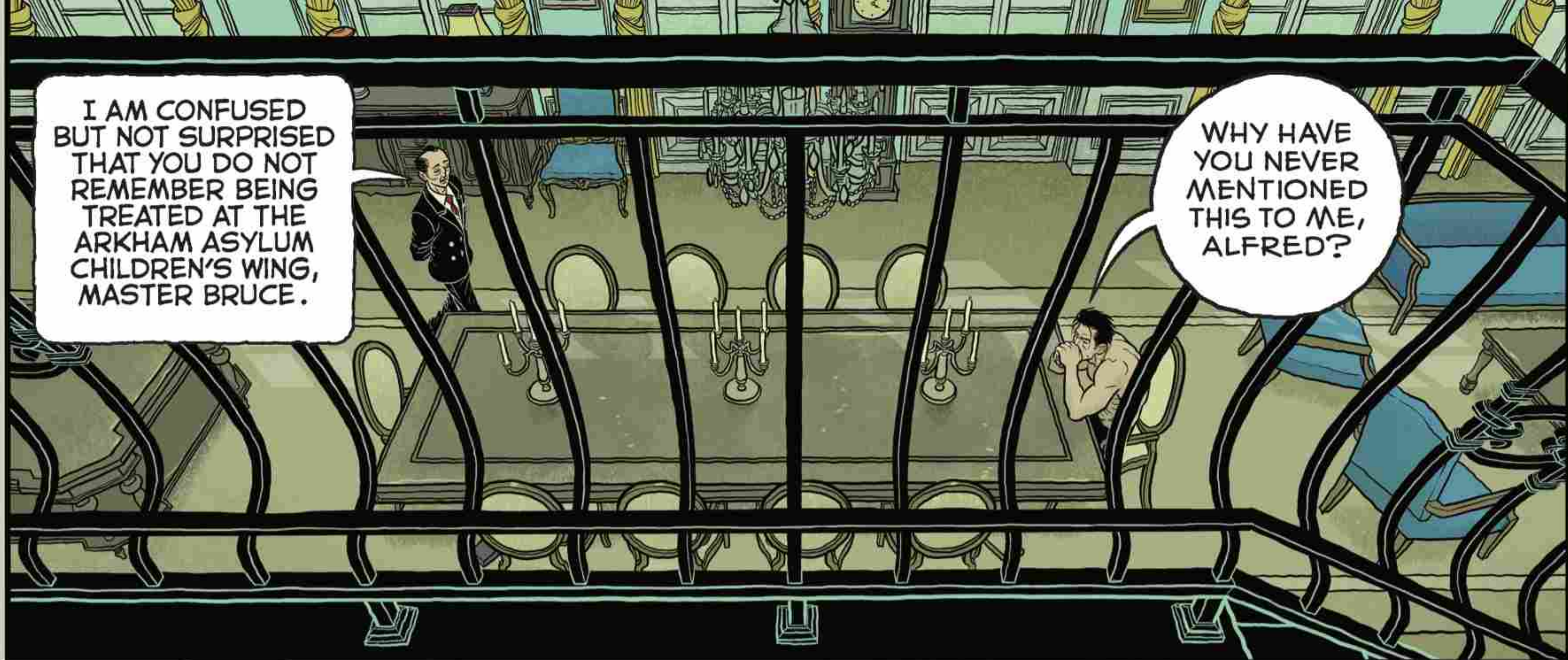


WELL, LET ME KNOW WHEN YOUR BOSS'S SCHEDULE CLEARS UP.

I'D PREFER TO HEAR HIS OWN OPINION ON WHAT I CAME TO OFFER.

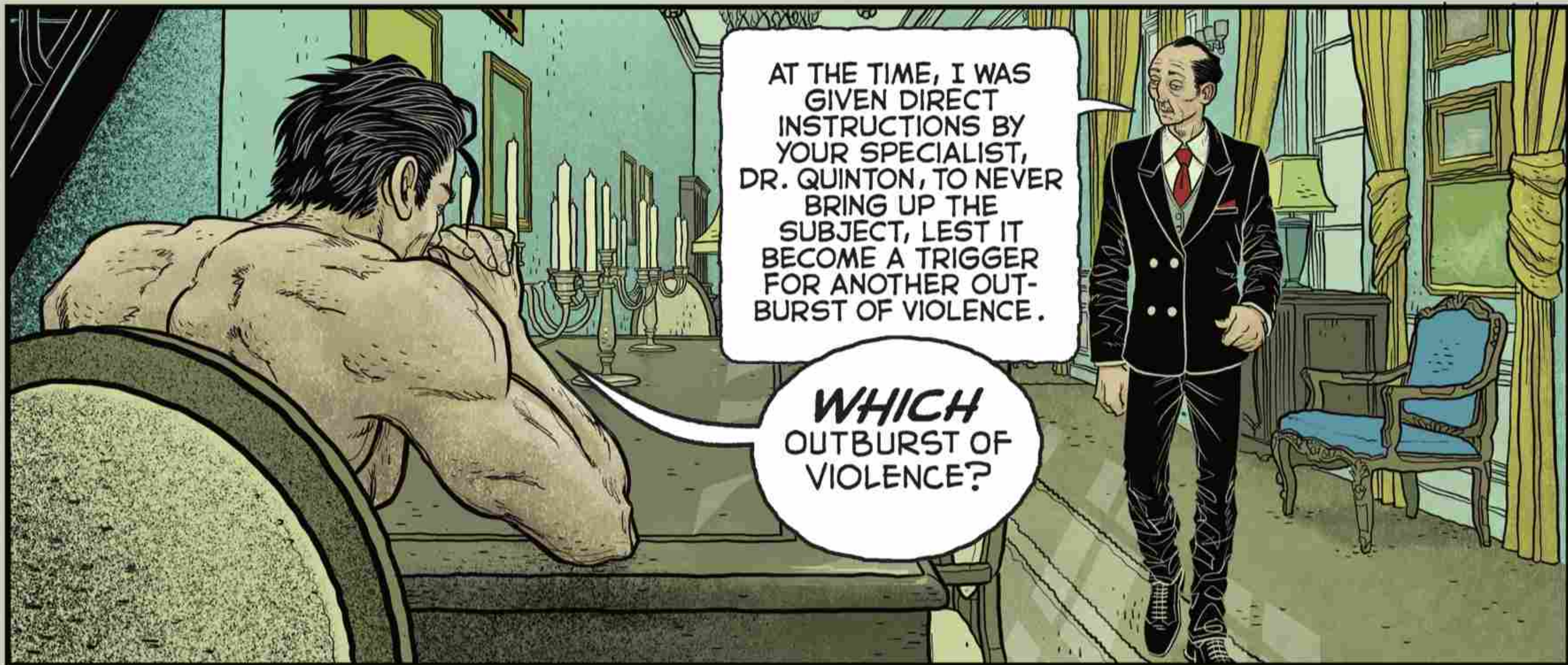


ALFRED...?



I AM CONFUSED BUT NOT SURPRISED THAT YOU DO NOT REMEMBER BEING TREATED AT THE ARKHAM ASYLUM CHILDREN'S WING, MASTER BRUCE.

WHY HAVE YOU NEVER MENTIONED THIS TO ME, ALFRED?



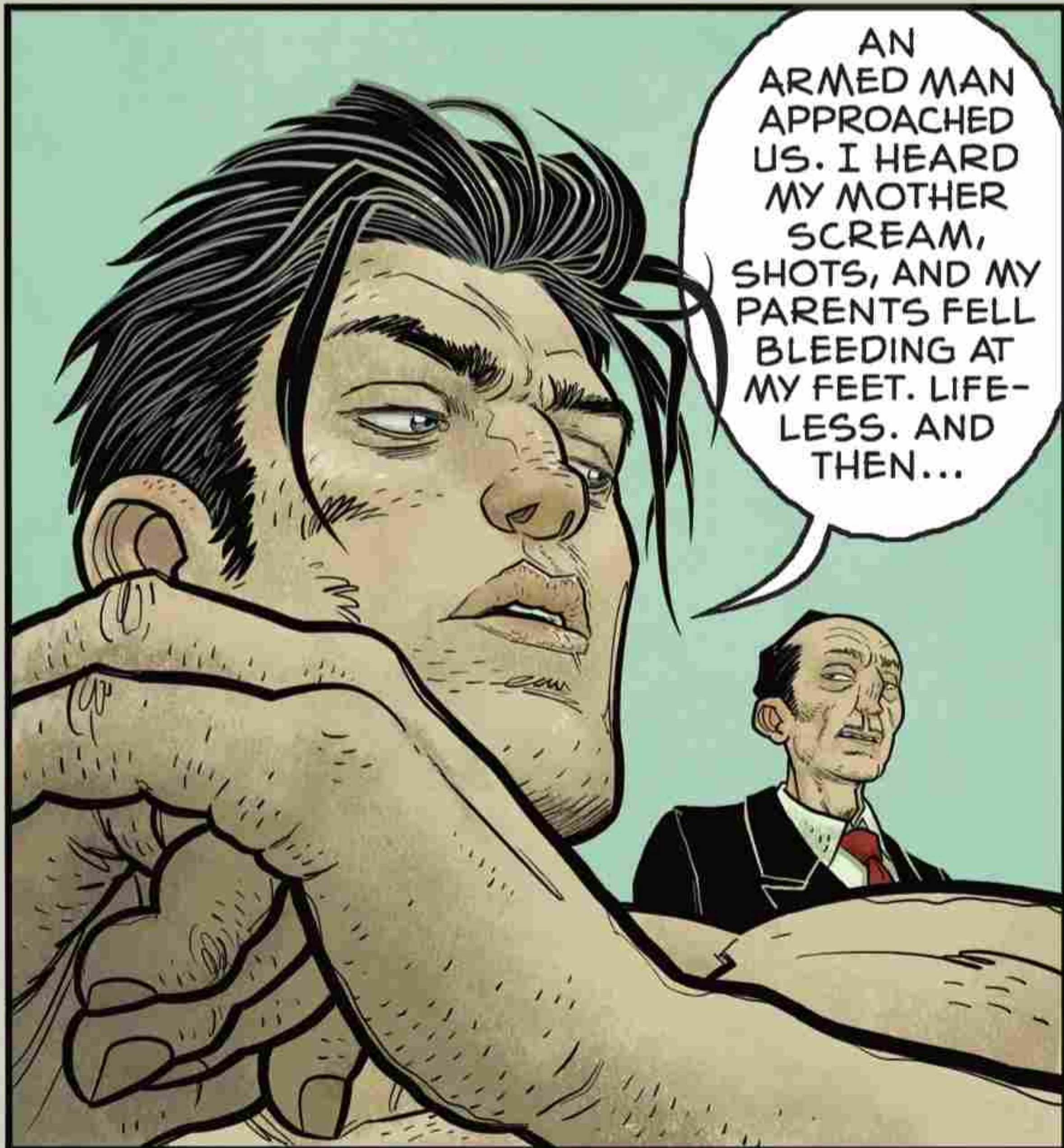
AT THE TIME, I WAS GIVEN DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS BY YOUR SPECIALIST, DR. QUINTON, TO NEVER BRING UP THE SUBJECT, LEST IT BECOME A TRIGGER FOR ANOTHER OUTBURST OF VIOLENCE.

WHICH OUTBURST OF VIOLENCE?



WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE NIGHT YOUR PARENTS WERE MURDERED, SIR?

I REMEMBER WE WENT TO THE MOVIES. I ASKED MY PARENTS TO WALK THROUGH DOWNTOWN ON OUR WAY BACK HOME.



AN ARMED MAN APPROACHED US. I HEARD MY MOTHER SCREAM, SHOTS, AND MY PARENTS FELL BLEEDING AT MY FEET. LIFELESS. AND THEN...

"THEN..."

"THIS STRANGE VISION ALWAYS COMES TO MIND..."

"A DEMON CUB WITH A BROKEN WING..."



DR. QUINTON PROBABLY
ALTERED YOUR REAL
MEMORIES DURING THE
TREATMENT.

"FOR YOU, THAT
NIGHT ENDS WITH
THE MURDER OF
YOUR PARENTS..."

"...BUT WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT WAS
NEARLY AS
BRUTAL.

"YOU WERE IN
SHOCK. I WANTED
TO TAKE YOU HOME.

"BUT THEN YOU
DISAPPEARED...
LIKE A GHOST.

"THE POLICE AND I
LOOKED DOWN EVERY
DARK ALLEY FOR YOU.
FOR HOURS..."

"BUT THEN
WE FOUND
YOU."



"YOU THOUGHT YOU
WENT AFTER YOUR
PARENTS' KILLER,
BUT ENDED UP
BEATING A HOME-
LESS MAN... UNTIL
HE WAS PARALYZED."



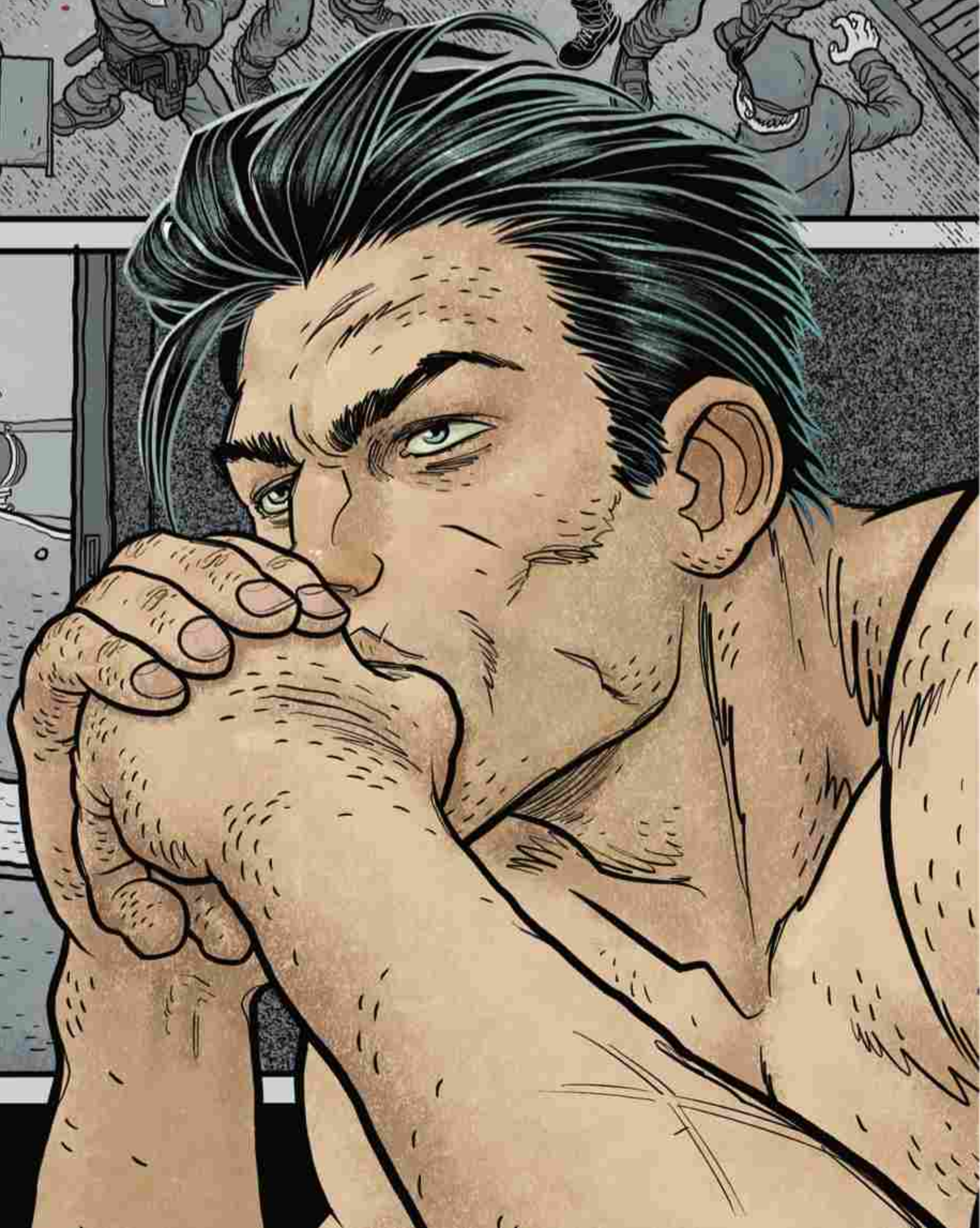
CHILD
PSYCHIATRIST

DR. QUINTON

ARKHAM ASYLUM
CHILDREN'S
WING

"DR. QUINTON
OFFERED HELP,
AND HIS TREAT-
MENT SEEMED
EFFECTIVE..."

"...UNTIL BATMAN
CAME ALONG."



ALFRED, I NEED THE TRUTH...HOW COULD YOU HIDE THIS FROM ME?

AND WHY HAVE YOU NEVER QUESTIONED THE IDEA OF BATMAN?

I COULDN'T STAND TO SEE YOU TAKE ON EVEN MORE GUILT...ON TOP OF WHAT YOU ALREADY CARRIED FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF YOUR PARENTS.

AND BATMAN...AT LEAST HE BROUGHT MEANING TO OUR LIVES.

OUR LIVES?

YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO LOST LOVED ONES THAT DAY.

AND I BELIEVED THAT A PURPOSE, HOWEVER ABSURD, WOULD KEEP ME FROM LOSING YOU, TOO.

BUT I WAS WRONG...

BRUCE WAYNE IS MY WEAKNESS, ALFRED...

BUT HOW CAN I ERASE HIS MEMORIES IF I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE?

HAVE YOU REFLECTED ON THE PATTERN YOU ARE REPEATING, SIR?

DR. QUINTON ERASED YOUR MEMORIES, AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO DO THE SAME.

ALFRED...

WHAT IF BATMAN WASN'T EVEN MY IDEA?

I THINK *THAT* ANSWER LIES IN FINDING OUT WHO *BRUCE WAYNE* REALLY IS...



THE
SCRIBE IS
DEAD.

BUT OUR MEN
MANAGED TO
REMOVE ALL THE
SACRED BOOKS
FROM HIS
SCRIPTORIUM.

GOOD.



SHE
CAME
TO SEE
ME.

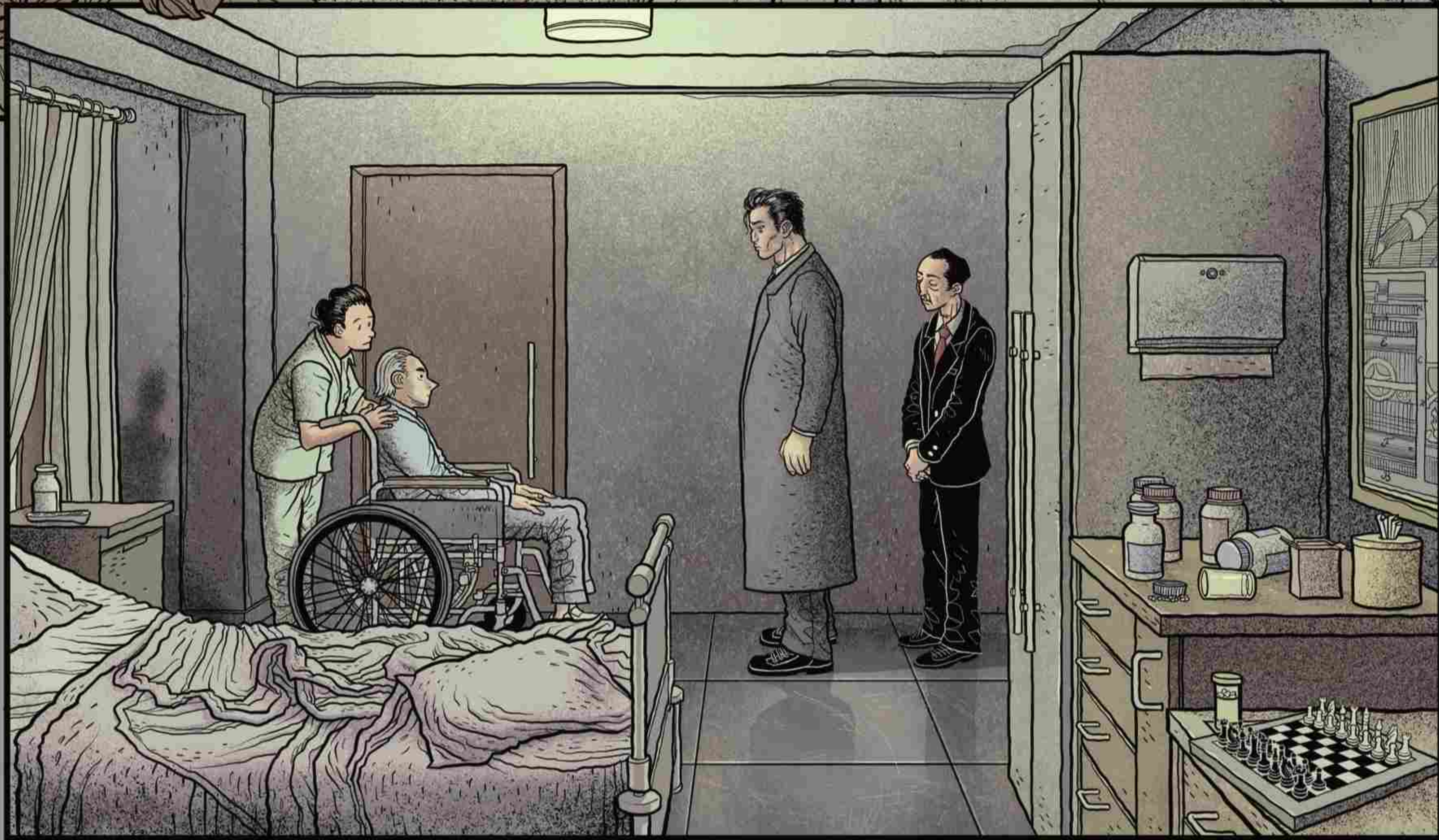
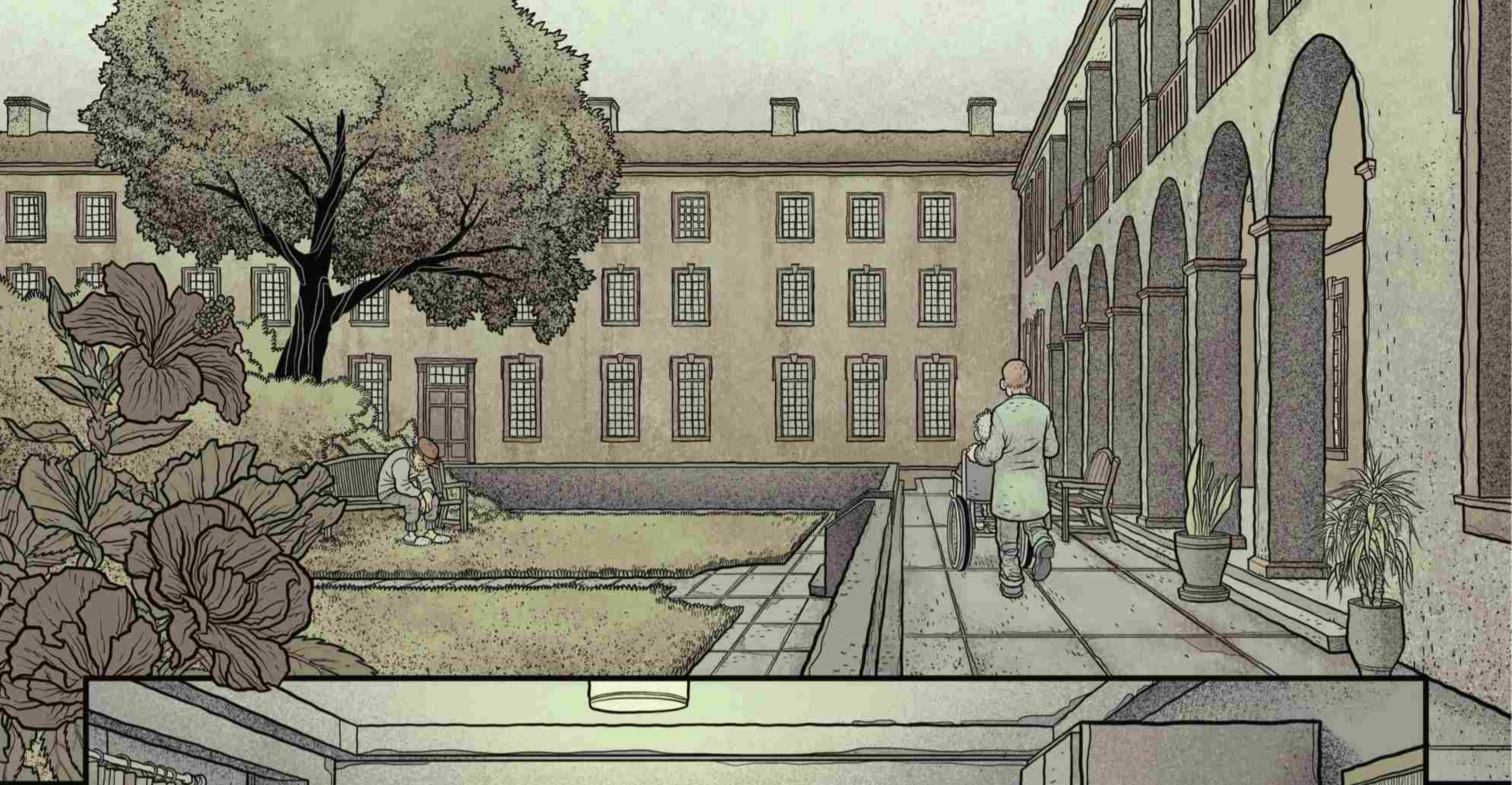
DON'T
WORRY. WE
CAN--

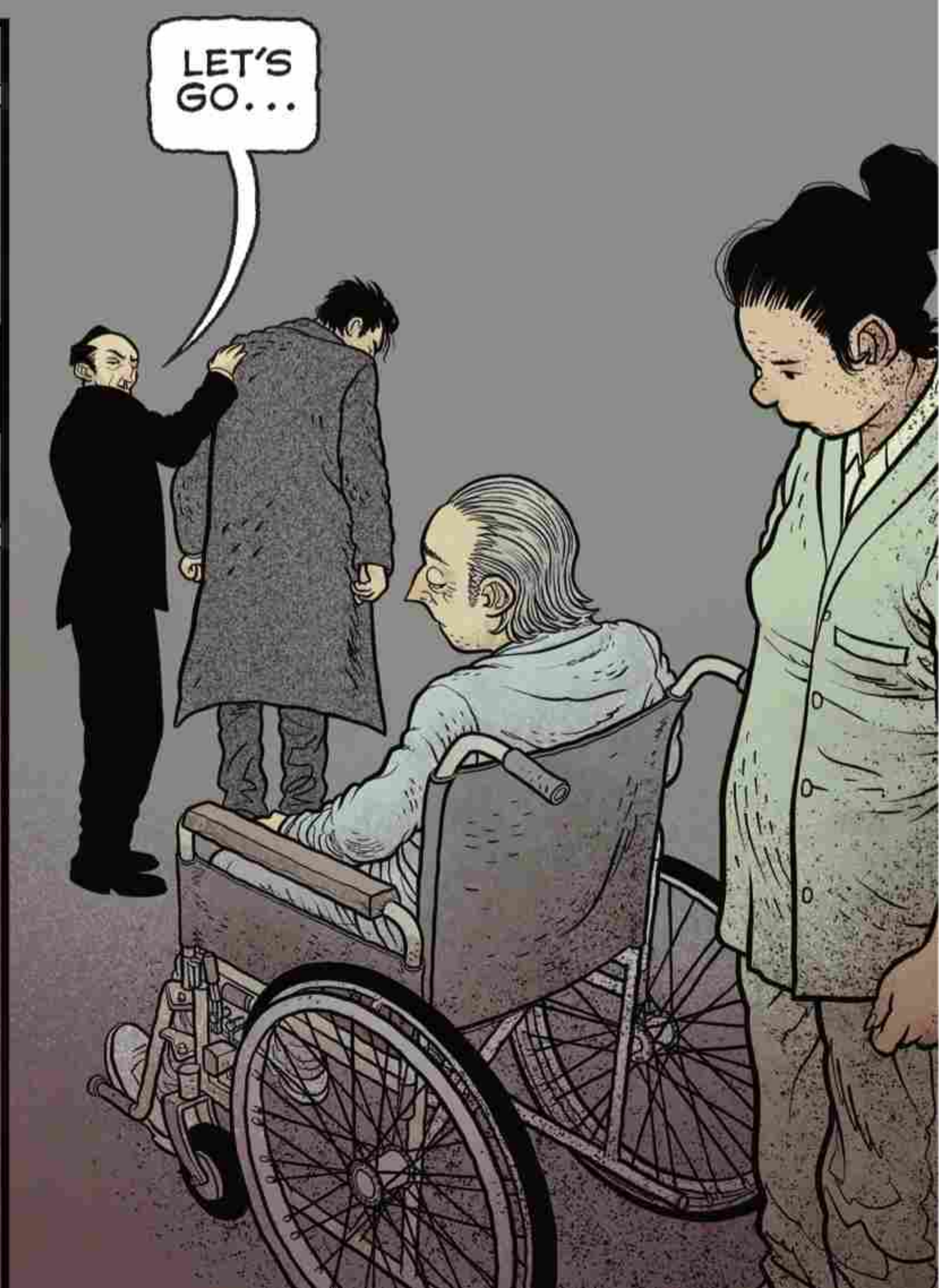
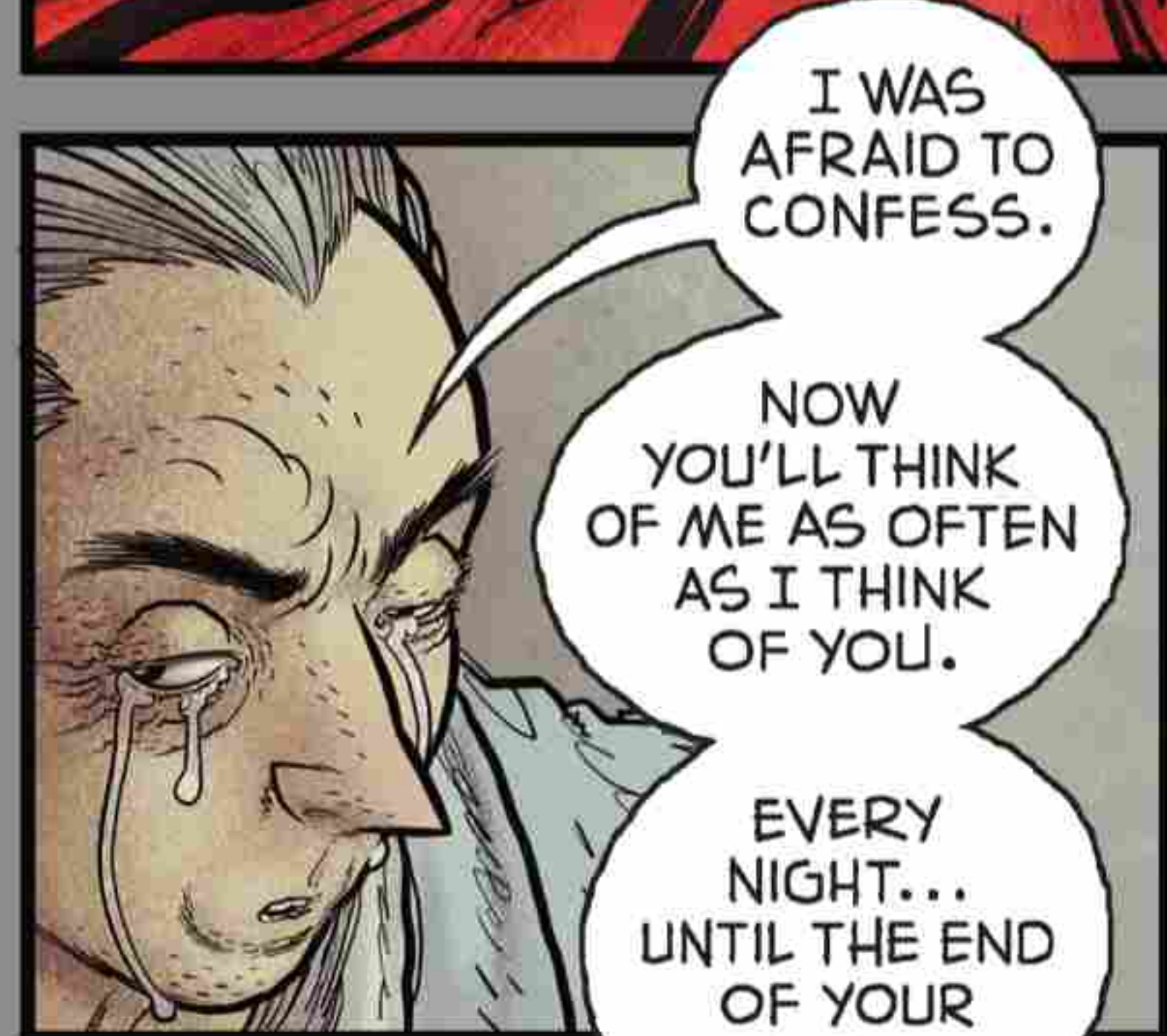
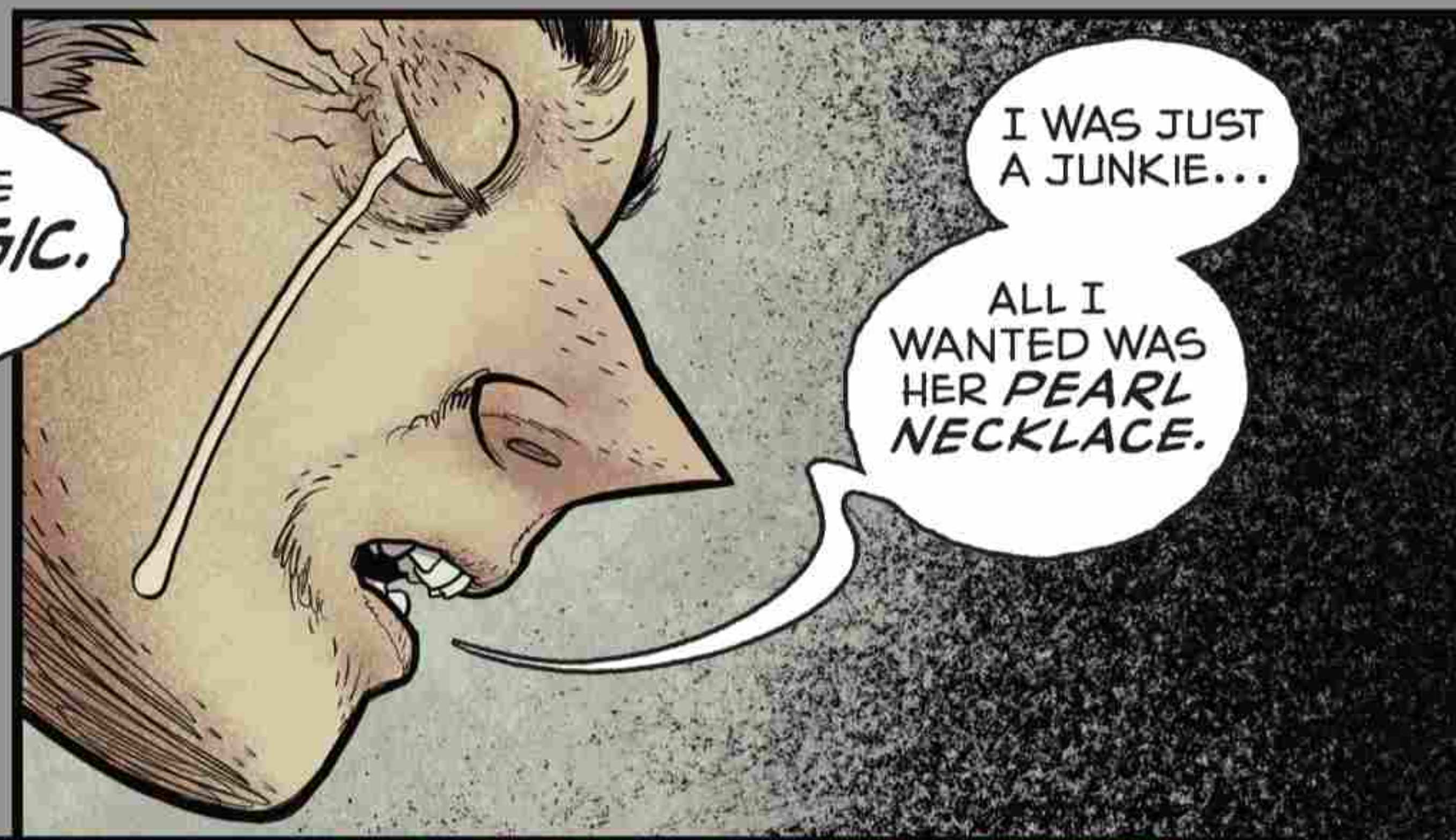
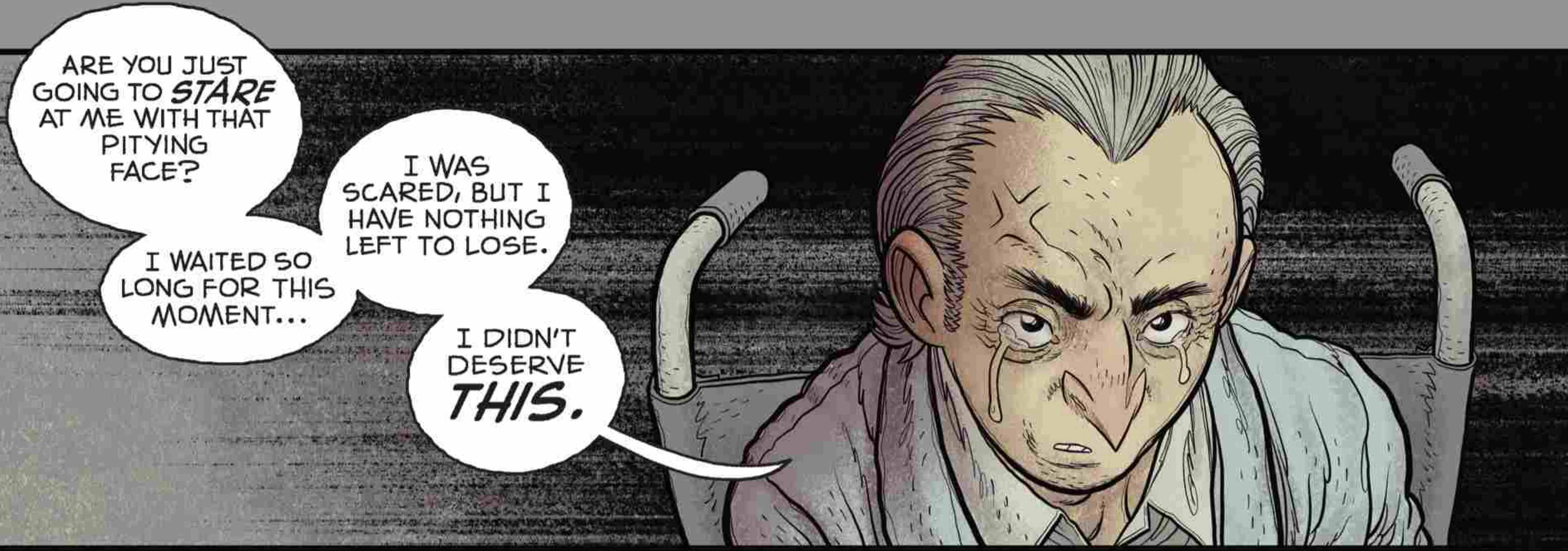
NO.

I'M
WAITING FOR
HER.

... "NOW
AND IN THE
HOUR OF OUR
DEATH."













MY RANGE-
OF-ACTION
THEORY WAS
RIGHT.

BUT WE
ARRIVED TOO
LATE.

I'M **CERTAIN**
THE NEXT VICTIM IS
ON DR. QUINTON'S
LIST. AND THIS
TIME, WE NEED TO
ACT QUICKLY.

THIS CONFIRMS
THAT THE CRIMINAL
WE ARRESTED ISN'T
THE SERIAL KILLER
WE'RE LOOKING
FOR...



...BUT HE MADE
THIS DRAWING WITH
HIS OWN BLOOD ON
THE TABLE IN THE
INTERROGATION
ROOM.



IF YOU'RE RIGHT
ABOUT THERE BEING
MORE EXPLOSIVES
OUT THERE...

...I DON'T THINK
WE'RE PREPARED
FOR WHAT'S TO
COME.



I **AM**
RIGHT.

AND APPARENTLY
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE
THAT THIS CRIME
SCENE WAS
TAMPERED WITH.



OBJECTS
HAVE
CLEARLY
BEEN
REMOVED.



THERE
ARE POLICE
INVOLVED
IN THESE
CRIMES.

NO
ONE CAN BE
TRUSTED.



YOU CAN TRUST ME, BATMAN.



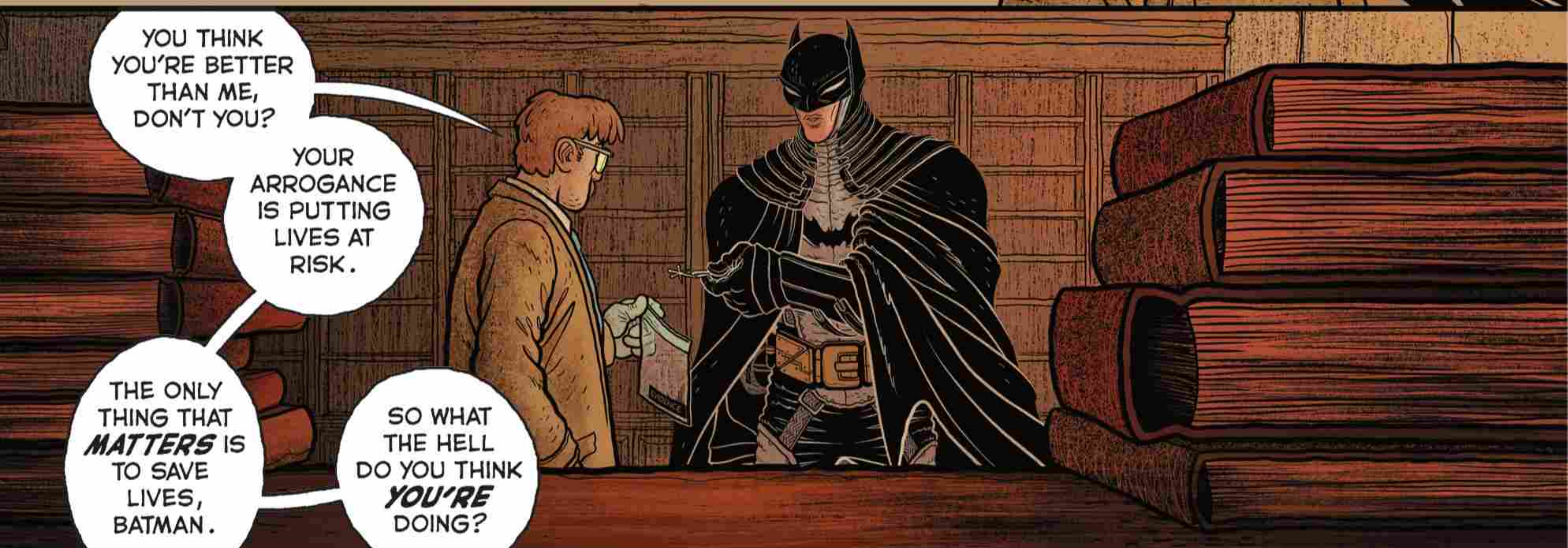
I DON'T KNOW WHY THE **HELL** I KEEP TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT WE'RE WORKING **TOGETHER**.

I'M PUTTING MY GODDAMN **CAREER** AT RISK MEETING YOU!



I WORK ALONE, GORDON.

TAKE THIS.



YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME, DON'T YOU?

YOUR ARROGANCE IS PUTTING LIVES AT RISK.

THE ONLY THING THAT **MATTERS** IS TO SAVE LIVES, BATMAN.

SO WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK **YOU'RE** DOING?



I DON'T CARE WHAT ANY OF YOU THINK ABOUT ME.

GO CHECK THE OTHER ADDRESS.



I CAN FINALLY SEE YOU...



I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU, KID.

YOU CAN **DISAPPEAR** NOW.



Bruce Wayne
is fighting like
never before
to survive
this mental
battle.

Everything I
discovered
about him
today...

...it sounds
like he's
crying for
help.

Mother,
is that you
sending me
these signs?

You're afraid
of being
forgotten...

...while your
assassin
still breathes.

He still
breathes...

A. Blum



FATHER, I'M INVESTIGATING A SERIES OF MURDERS, AND YOUR NAME IS ON A LIST OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS.

THE LIST IS FROM THE NOW-DEFUNCT CHILDREN'S WARD AT ARKHAM ASYLUM.

BUT YOUR AGE DOESN'T MATCH THAT OF THE PREVIOUS VICTIMS.



HOW DID YOUR NAME END UP ON DR. QUINTON'S PATIENT LIST?



LISTEN, SON. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



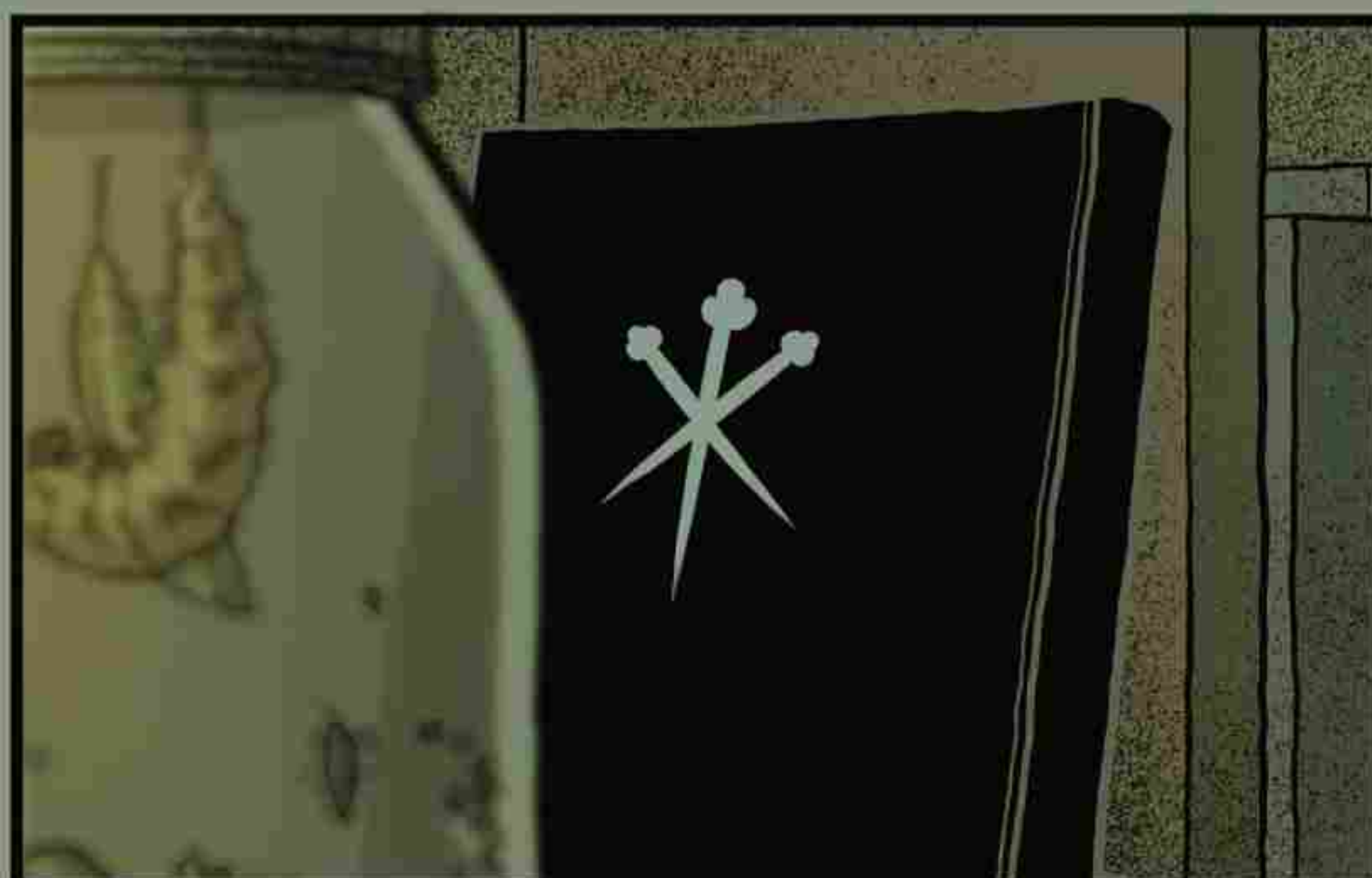
THIS IS WEIRD.

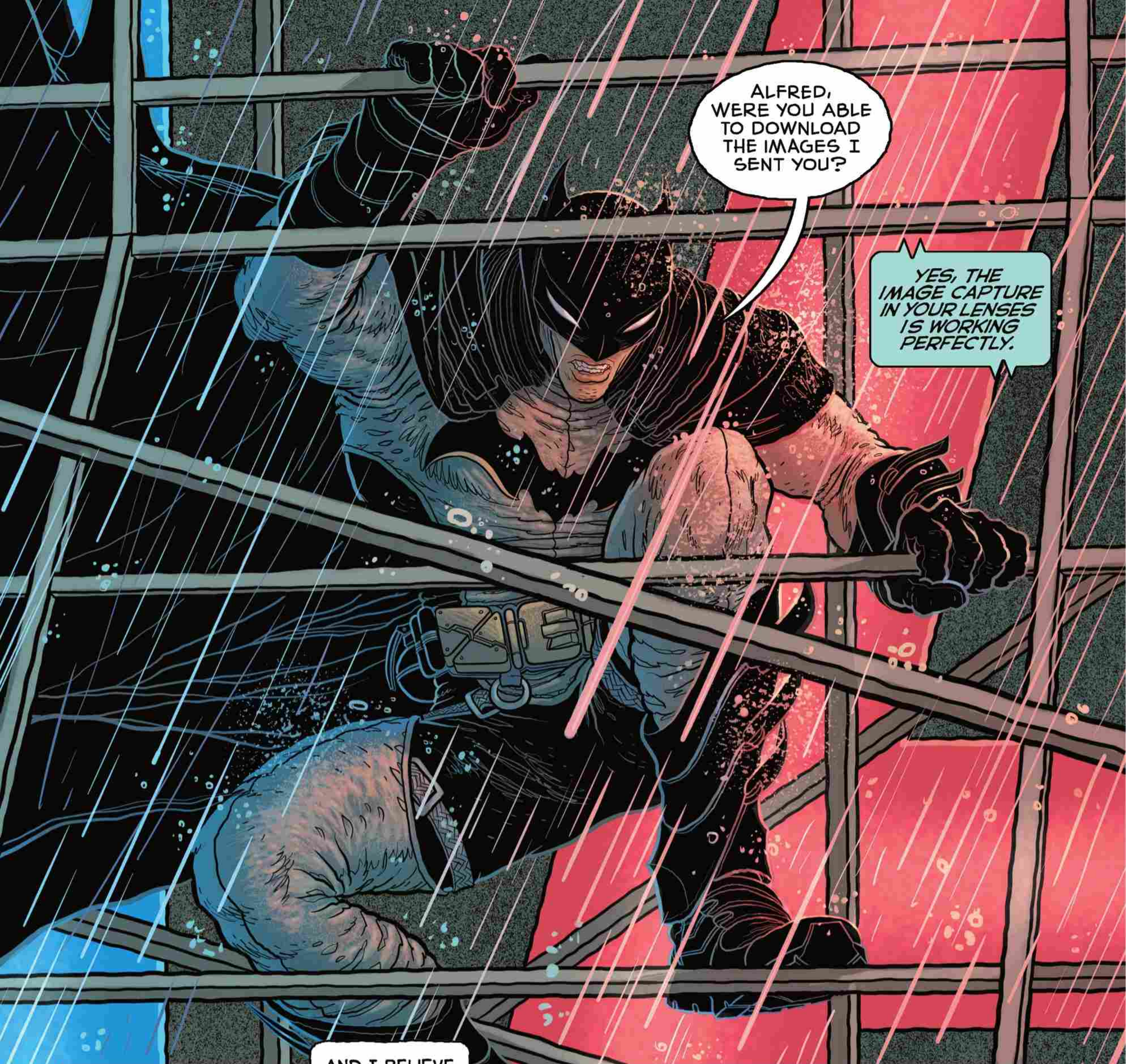
THERE IS NO OTHER VINCENT STRASBOURG III IN GOTHAM CITY.



THIS CONVERSATION IS MAKING MY MIGRAINE WORSE.

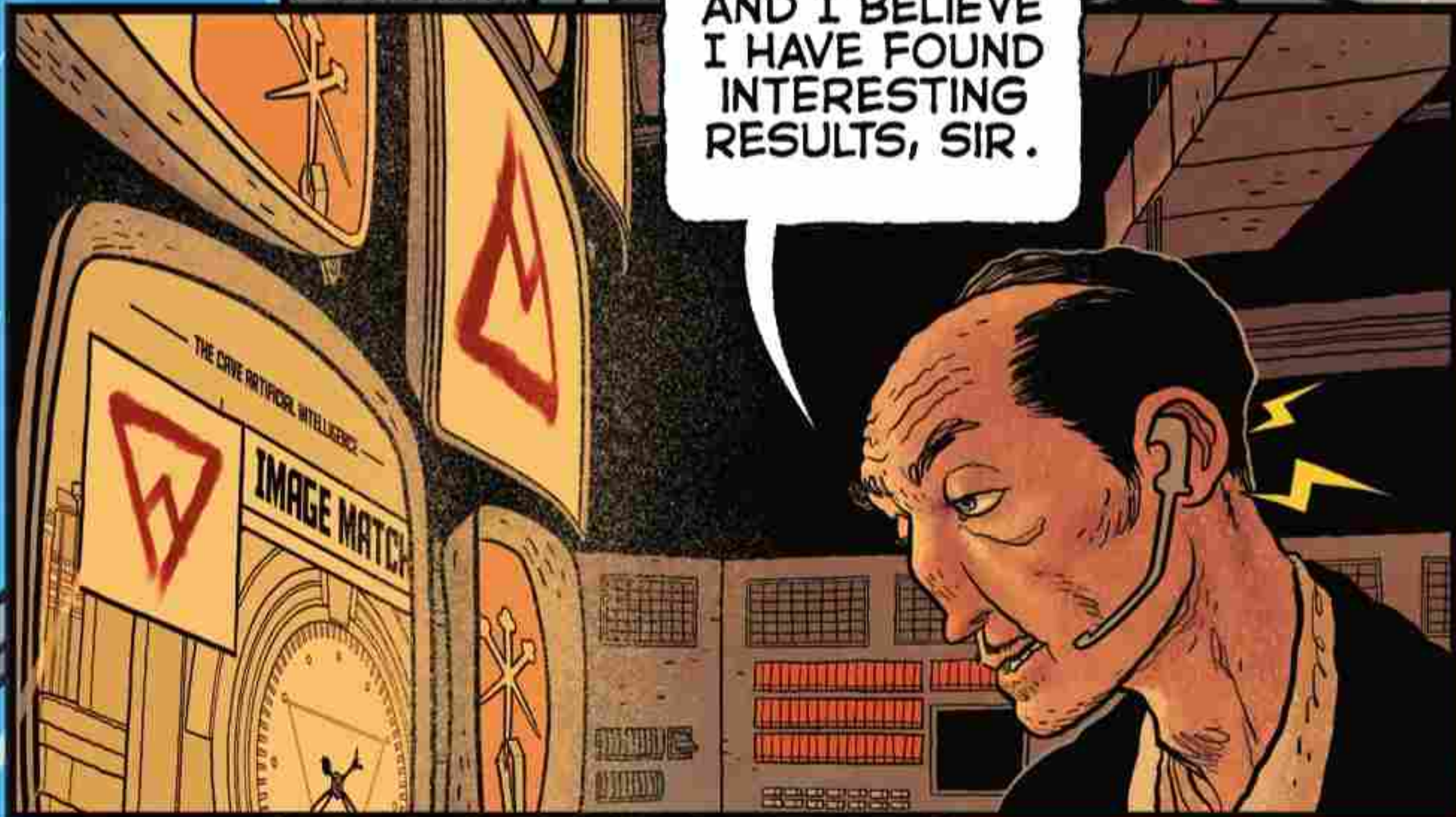
I NEED A PAINKILLER...



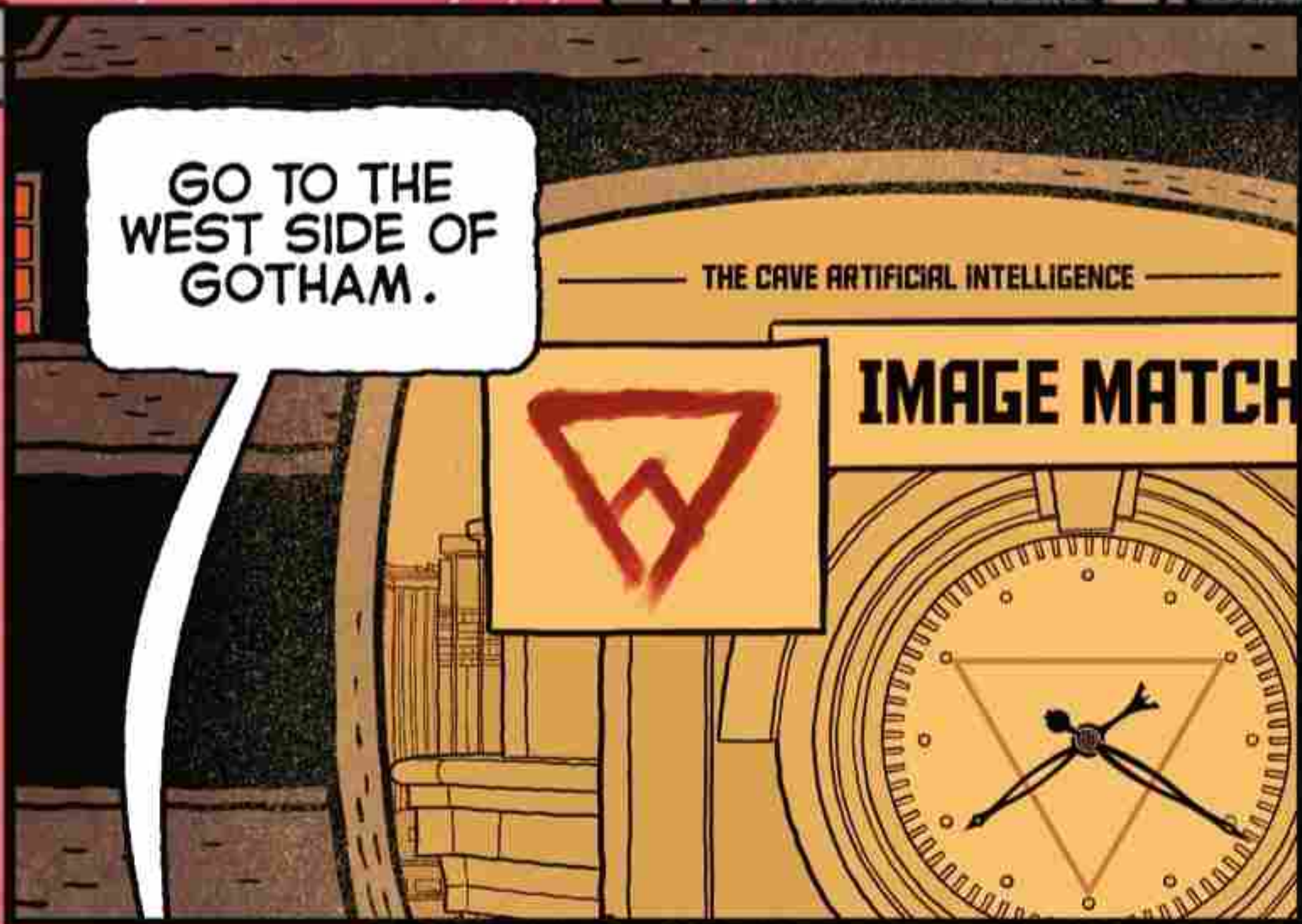


ALFRED,
WERE YOU ABLE
TO DOWNLOAD
THE IMAGES I
SENT YOU?

YES, THE
IMAGE CAPTURE
IN YOUR LENSES
IS WORKING
PERFECTLY.



AND I BELIEVE
I HAVE FOUND
INTERESTING
RESULTS, SIR.

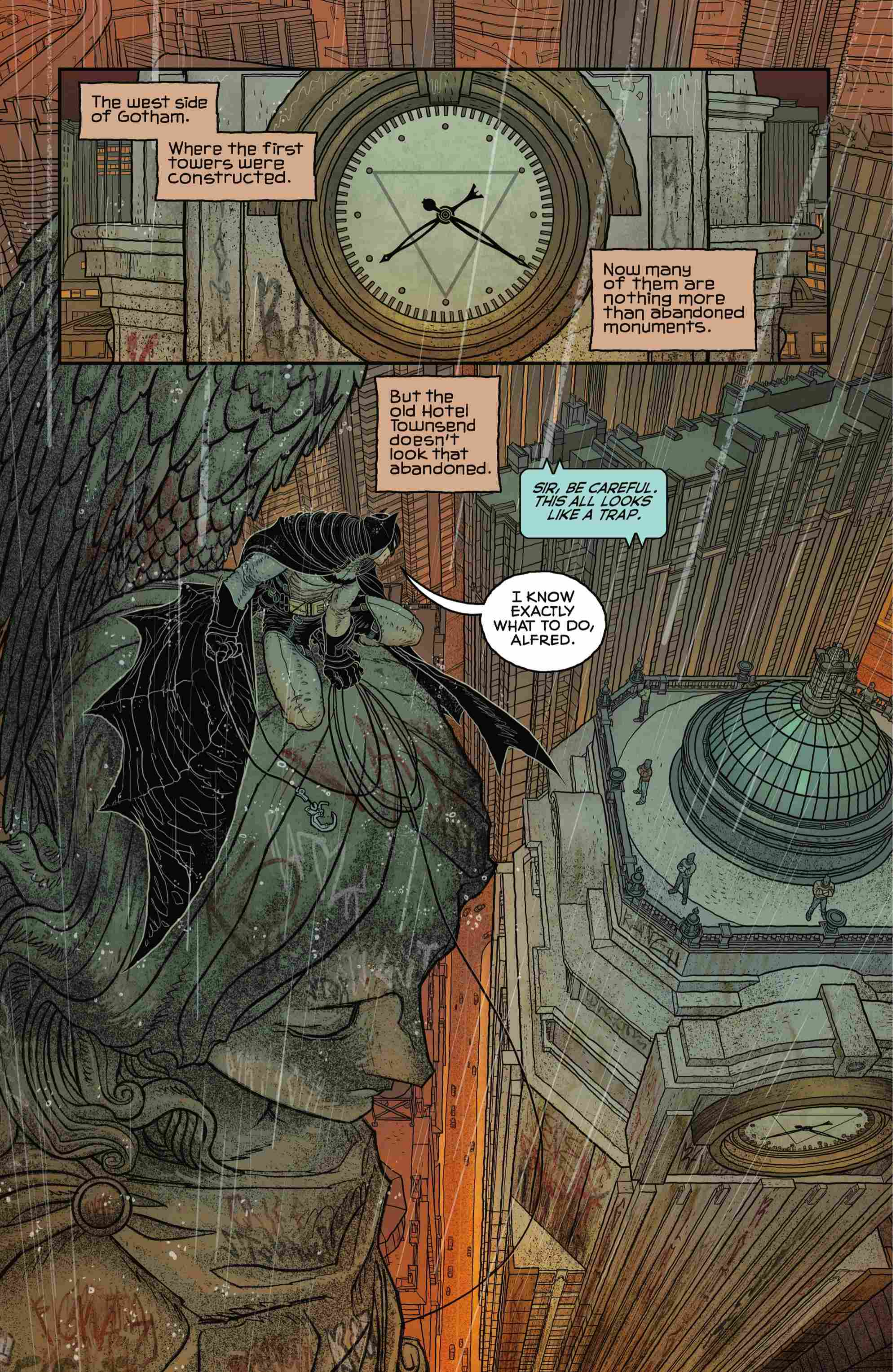


GO TO THE
WEST SIDE OF
GOTHAM.



HOTEL
TOWNSEND.

OKAY.

A full-page comic book illustration of Batman standing on a rooftop in Gotham City. He is wearing his iconic black suit and cowl, with his cape flowing behind him. He is looking down at a large, ornate clock face on the wall of a building. The clock face is circular with a greenish-yellow center and black hands. The building is made of stone and has a classical architectural style. In the background, the city of Gotham is visible, with tall buildings and a large dome structure. The scene is set at night, with a dark sky and some lights visible in the distance. The overall tone is somber and mysterious.

The west side
of Gotham.

Where the first
towers were
constructed.

Now many
of them are
nothing more
than abandoned
monuments.

But the
old Hotel
Townsend
doesn't
look that
abandoned.

SIR, BE CAREFUL.
THIS ALL LOOKS
LIKE A TRAP.

I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT TO DO,
ALFRED.





ARGHH!

WHAAK

CALL ME
MOTH-ER,
MY SON...



They're armed.
But I know
their type.

Depending on
how I present
myself, I'm
either a monster
or just a loser in
a bat costume.

I choose
loser.

HAHA!
DON'T SHOOT
HIM.

HE'S
MINE!

Instead
of striking
terror, I
encourage
them to
show off.

TAK

KRAK

They make me
bulletproof.

But Bruce
Wayne's end
might come
tonight.



THE NAME
OF THAT STUPID
CARTOON YOU
LIKE IS
CRYTOON,
RIGHT?

HAHA...
YOU'RE SO
CORN.

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND WHY
YOU WERE SO
IMPORTANT TO
THE **STADT-
GEIST**.



BUT
YOU'RE
DONE
NOW.



YOU
KNOW
YOUR
FATE IF
YOU'RE
CAUGHT,
DON'T
YOU?



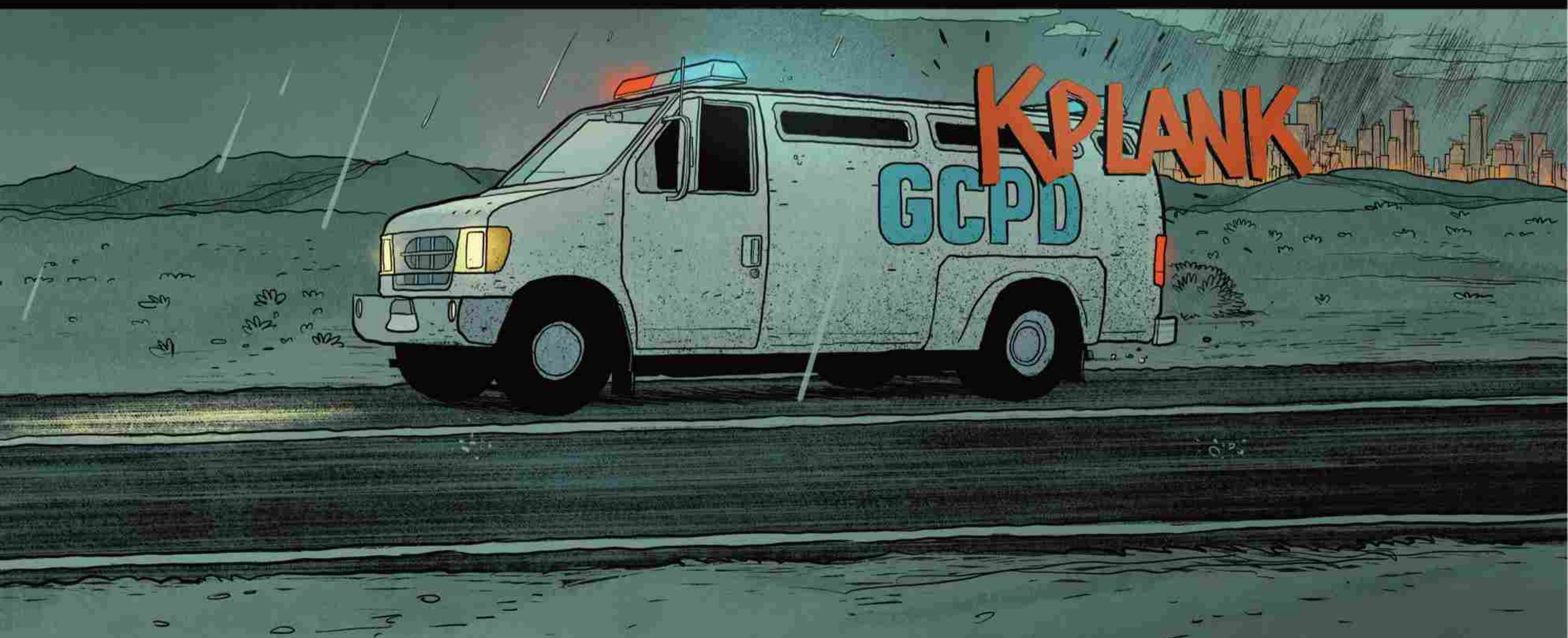
THE THREE
OF US GET TO
COMPETE FOR YOUR
VACANT SPOT,
"CRYTOON."

MORE LIKE
DEADTOON.



HAHAHA...

CRACK



KPLANK







I CAN
SEE **YOUR**
AURA...

FWSH

FWSH

...AND
YOU'RE
DYING!

OH, MY
DEAR...

YOU'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN...MY
FAVORITE...

BUT
YOU'RE NOT
CAPABLE OF
STOPPING THE
BELLS.







FINALLY.

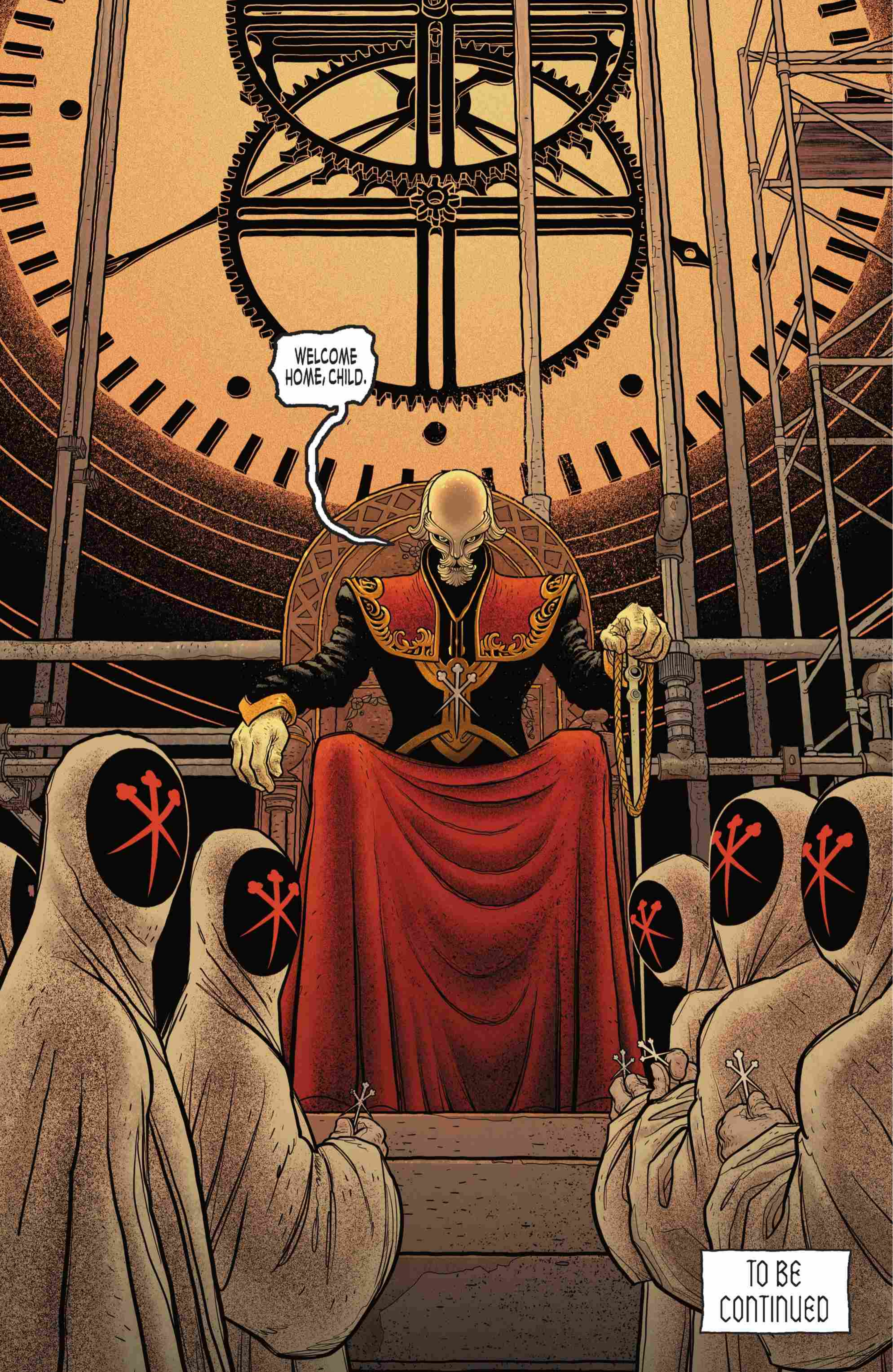


I FELT YOU
COMING...



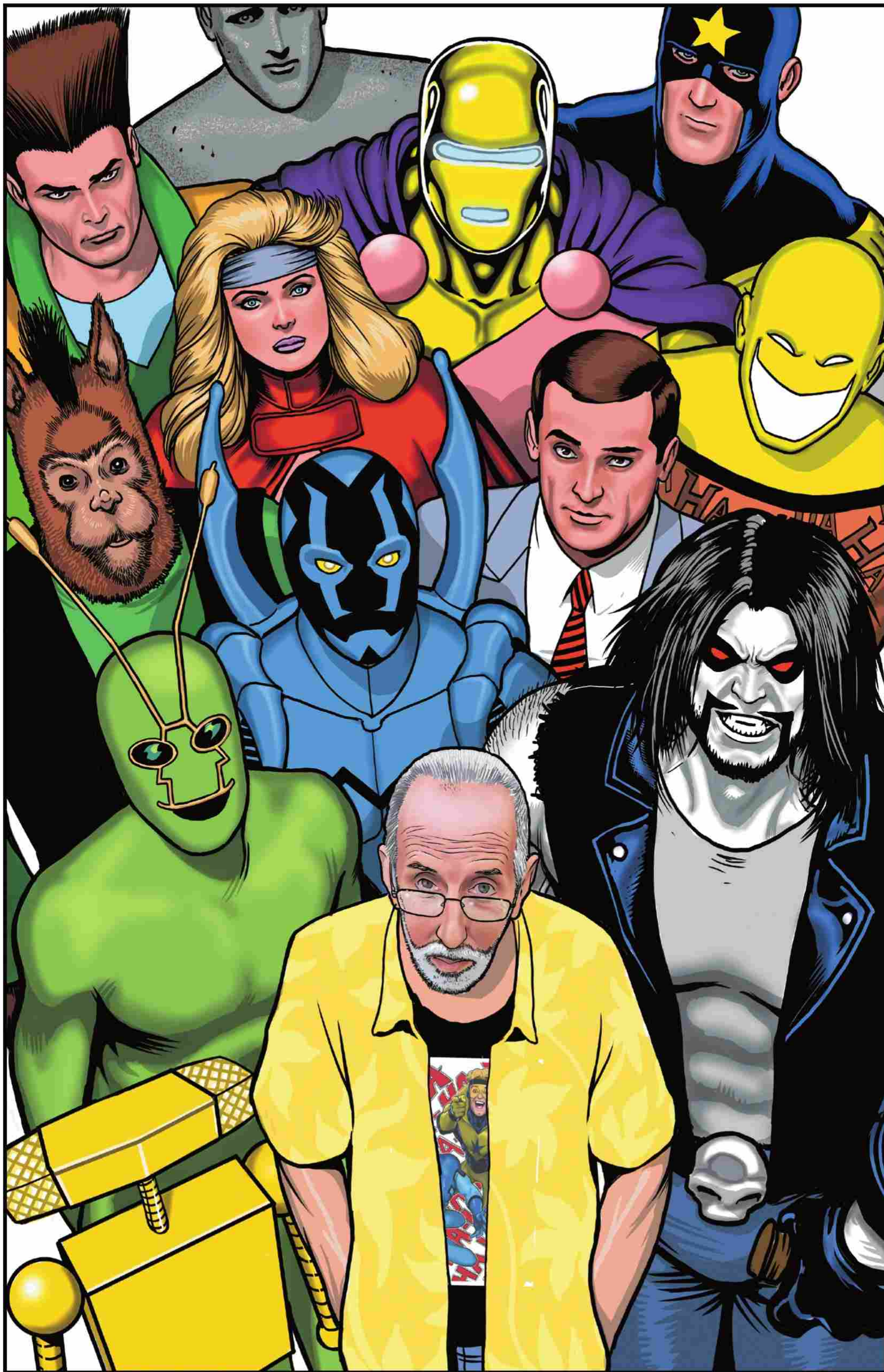
A DEMON
CUB FALLS TO
EARTH AND
BREAKS ITS
WINGS...

...IT
BECOMES
THE DEVIL AND
KILLS THE
MAN."



WELCOME
HOME, CHILD.

TO BE
CONTINUED



KEITH GIFFEN

1 9 5 2 - 2 0 2 3

KEITH GIFFEN WAS ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANTLY CREATIVE HUMANS EVER TO WORK IN COMICS, THE JACK KIRBY OF MY GENERATION OF CREATORS. HE WAS A CURMUDGEON WITH A HEART OF GOLD. AN OLD, DEAR FRIEND. AND, AS MY WIFE OBSERVED, "HE WAS LIKE A CHARACTER OUT OF A KEITH GIFFEN STORY." SAFE TRAVELS, KEITH. YOU WILL BE MISSED.

—J.M. DeMATTEIS

KEITH WAS A CREATIVE FORCE OF NATURE, GIFTED WITH THE ABILITY TO BOLDLY AND ENDLESSLY PULL HIS CREATIONS FROM A BLANK PAGE AS WE WATCHED IN AMAZEMENT. HE EFFORTLESSLY CONJURED STORIES FROM SOME MYSTICAL PLACE, WITH RAZOR-SHARP WIT THAT WOULD HAVE YOU SMILING ONE MOMENT AND SOCK YOU IN THE GUT THE NEXT. KEITH, WE HOLD YOU IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.

—HOWARD PORTER

KEITH GIFFEN'S BRILLIANCE AS BOTH WRITER AND ARTIST IS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE INCREDIBLE BREADTH OF HIS WORK OVER MORE THAN 45 YEARS. THAT CREATIVE ENERGY, ALONG WITH HIS ABILITY TO MOVE THROUGH A CASCADE OF IDEAS THAT DIDN'T WORK UNTIL HE FOUND ONE THAT DID, WAS PRIZED BY EVERYONE WHO COLLABORATED WITH HIM.

—DAN JURGENS

I ASKED KEITH ONCE, "WHAT'S THE SECRET TO YOUR CAREER LONGEVITY?" HE SAID, "FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU DO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE AND OWN THAT LANE. WHEN PUBLISHERS WANT IT, THEY'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COME TO YOU." THE THING IS, KEITH DIDN'T OWN A LANE. HE OWNED THE WHOLE HIGHWAY. I MISS YOU, MY FRIEND.

—MARK WAID

KEITH HAD THE MOST FERTILE AND IMAGINATIVE MIND IN COMICS IN MY GENERATION. IT WAS A DELIGHT TO BUILD OUT THE FUTURE OF THE DC UNIVERSE WITH HIM.

—PAUL LEVITZ

I OWE MUCH OF WHAT I HAVE TODAY TO KEITH. WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS EVER SINCE I WAS THAT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL DRAWING LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES ART IN FANZINES. HE CALLED ME THE "LITTLE SISTER I NEVER WANTED." BUT IF I HAD WANTED ANOTHER BROTHER, KEITH WOULD HAVE BEEN EVERYTHING I WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR.

—COLLEEN DORAN

HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS. ALL I KNOW IS THAT KEITH WOULD BE ANNOYED BY THIS WHOLE THING, BUT IF ANYONE TRULY DESERVED PRAISE AND APPRECIATION FROM THE COMICS INDUSTRY, IT WOULD BE KEITH. I GUESS IT'S A GOOD THING HE'S NOT HERE TO SEE IT.

—DAN DIDIO

KEITH WAS A MASTER STORYTELLER, FULL OF GOOD IDEAS, AND WHEN HE KNEW HE WAS RIGHT HE WOULD FIGHT THE BATTLE UNTIL THE END. THERE ARE NO MORE BATTLES TO FIGHT, MY FRIEND.

—BRIAN MILLER

ANDY HELFER ONCE TOLD ME, "IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE FIRST IDEA KEITH GIVES YOU, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL PITCH YOU ANOTHER ONE. AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT ONE, WAIT A MINUTE, AND HE'LL HAVE ANOTHER ONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK FROM KEITH." KEITH WAS BRIGHT AND RESOURCEFUL ENOUGH THAT I ALWAYS TOOK THE FIRST IDEA OFF THE TOP OF THE DECK.

—JOEY CAVALIERI

KEITH WAS THE YOUNGEST GRUMPY OLD MAN I EVER MET—AND THAT WAS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY I LOVED HIM. THE HOURS, DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS WE SPENT WORKING AND PLAYING TOGETHER WERE SOME OF THE BEST IN MY TIME AT DC. WITH THE FACILITY OF A KURTZMAN, KEITH COULD PENCIL-SKETCH A FULL ISSUE OF *JLA* IN AN HOUR. AS PART OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* CREW, HE WAS THE FULCRUM THAT BALANCED THE REST OF US, AND HE WILL BE MISSED.

—ANDY HELFER

I'M ALSO WORKING ON THE THIRD *[JLJ]* OMNIBUS COVER, AND NOW, LOOKING AT ALL THESE KEITH GIFFEN CHARACTERS LOOKING AT ME, IT FEELS UNSURPRISINGLY MELANCHOLY. A WISE-ASS UNTIL THE END. MAY THE WINGS OF ANGELS FLY YOU ON YOUR NEW ADVENTURE, YOU MAGNIFICENT BASTARD!

—KEVIN MAGUIRE

KEITH POSSESSED AN INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE OF TALENT, HAD A FEARLESS TAKE ON EVERY PROJECT ASKED OF HIM, AND CREATED SOME OF THE MOST ABSURD, OVER-THE-TOP, AND HILARIOUS CHARACTERS EVER. TRULY A MASTER OF EVERY FACET OF THE CRAFT OF MAKING COMICS AND A CREATIVE DYNAMO LIKE NO OTHER.

—JIM LEE

WHEN I WAS A KID, KEITH GIFFEN WAS MY FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CREATOR. IT WAS HIS WORK ON *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES* AND *JUSTICE LEAGUE* THAT FIRST CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, AND THEN IT WAS HIS EVER-EVOLVING ART STYLE THAT SHOWED A KID LIKE ME THAT YOU COULD HAVE A WEIRD DRAWING STYLE AND STILL MAKE GOOD COMICS. KEITH'S CURMUDGEONLY STYLE HID A HEART OF GOLD AND AN ENDLESSLY RESTLESS CREATIVE SPIRIT. HE WILL BE MISSED. BY ME AND SO MANY FANS AND READERS.
REST IN PEACE, KEITH, AND THANK YOU.

—JEFF LEMIRE

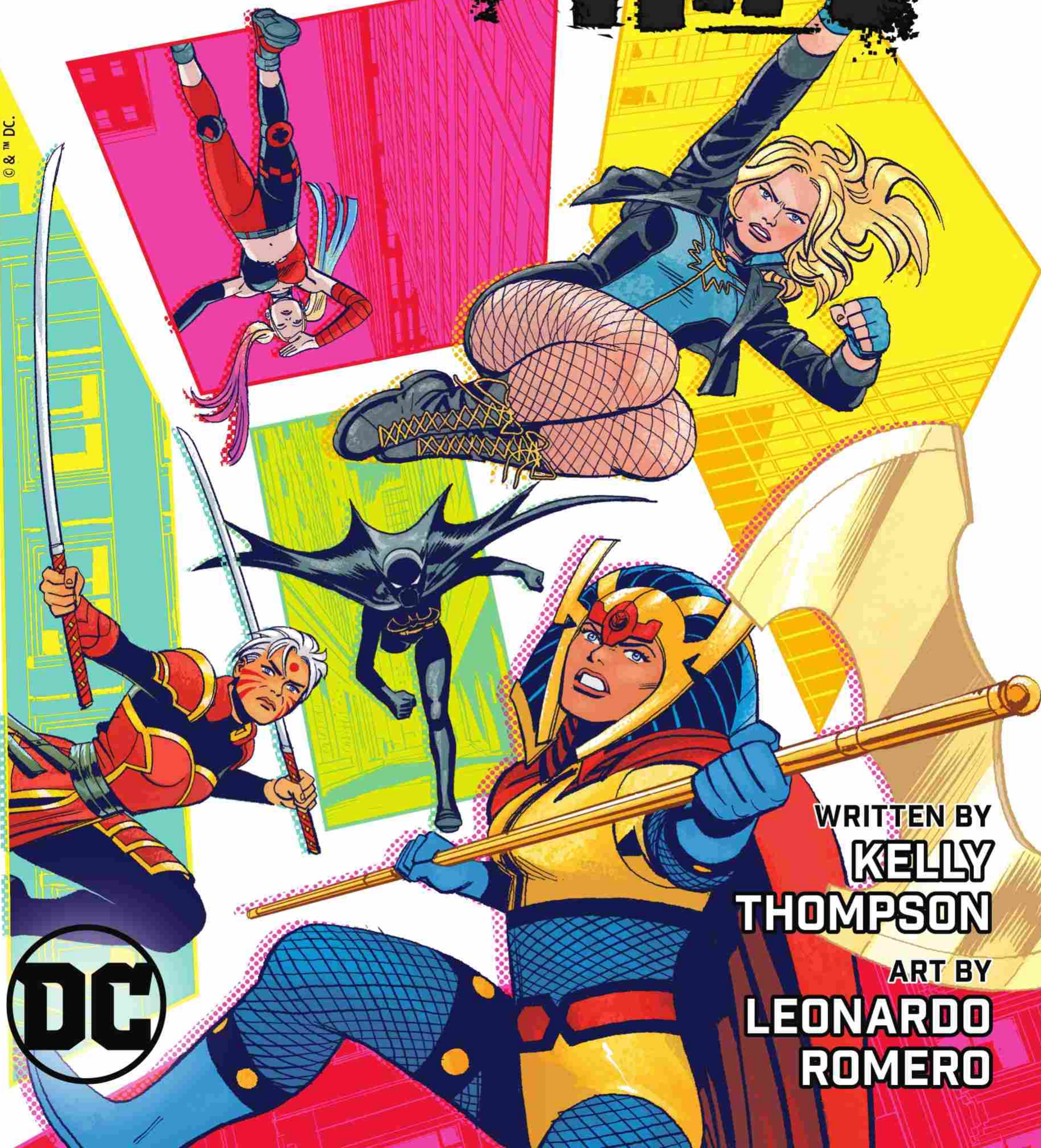


BREAKING HEARTS AND FACES MONTHLY!

BIRDS OF PREY

“The team is perfect, both
the creative team and the
characters they assemble.”
—The Beat

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“This is how a
killer’s heart beats.”



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